

**Oldham**

**Local**

**Plan**

**Local Plan Review: Issues and  
Options Communities Topic  
Paper**

**July 2021**



**Oldham**  
Council

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■	COMMUNITIES TOPIC PAPER	
1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	KEY POLICIES, PLANS AND STRATEGIES	3
3	EVIDENCE BASE	48
4	CONSULTATION	49
5	FUTURE EVIDENCE REQUIRED	51
6	KEY ISSUES	55
7	PLAN OBJECTIVES	57
8	INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT	58
9	EVIDENCE SOURCES	60

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This Communities Topic Paper is one of a series that has been prepared as part of the process of evidence gathering to support the review and preparation of Oldham's Local Plan.
- 1.2** The full range of Topic Papers deal with the following:
- Housing
  - Economy and Employment
  - Our Centres (incorporating retail)
  - Communities (incorporating community facilities, health and well-being, education, open space, sport and recreation provision and infrastructure etc).
  - Open Land (incorporating Green Belt and Other Protected Open Land)
  - Natural Environment (incorporating landscape, nature conservation designations and wider Green Infrastructure)
  - Built Environment (incorporating design, heritage)
  - Transport
  - Climate Change, Energy and Flood Risk
- 1.3** The principal aim of the Topic Paper is to set out current key policies, plans and strategies relating this topic area that will form the basis for the development of the Local Plan. The Topic Papers will present a profile of the Borough and highlight key issues and opportunities that the Local Plan should seek to address. Helping to shape and influence the direction and focus of the Local Plan's planning policies, designation and site allocations.
- 1.4** It is intended that the Topic Papers will be 'living' documents that can be updated as we progress through the preparation of the Local Plan, carry out further consultation and complete additional evidence.
- 1.5** Where possible the following section has been organised into four broad themes of 'Communities', such as: Neighbourhoods and Community Cohesion, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills, and Open/ Green Space. However many of the documents described below are relevant across most, if not all, of the themes and the themes themselves are interrelated.

## 2 KEY POLICIES, PLANS AND STRATEGIES

### National Context

#### National Planning Policy Framework, (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, March 2019)

**2.1** The NPPF, revised in 2018, sets out the Government's planning policies and details how they should be applied. Chapter 8 'Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities' states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;
- are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and
- enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

**2.2** This chapter also states that to deliver social, recreational and cultural facilities and services for the community, planning policies and decisions should:

- plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community;
- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

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- 2.3** In addition, this chapter emphasises that a collaborative, positive and proactive approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. This includes supporting new schools or expansions and alterations through the planning process and working with partners to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.
- 2.4** This chapter also states that policies and decisions should consider the social and economic benefits of estate regeneration, and that authorities should use their planning powers to help deliver estate regeneration to a high standard.
- 2.5** New to this chapter from the previous NPPF, published in 2012, is the explicit reference to promoting public safety and taking into account wider security and defence requirements. This includes anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and natural hazards especially in large public places, with policies for these areas focusing on reducing vulnerability, increasing resilience and ensuring public safety and security, as appropriate, and based on the most up to date information from the police and other agencies. Also including supporting development required for operational defence and security purposes.
- 2.6** In relation to open space and sport and recreation, Chapter 8 states that planning policies should be based on up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, and recreational facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. It emphasises that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings/ land should not be built on unless it can satisfy strict criteria. Public Rights of Way and access should also be protected from development, and new facilities/ routes encouraged.
- 2.7** Also set out within this chapter is the right for local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to designate Local Green Spaces. The designation should only be used to protect land where it is in close proximity to the community it serves; is demonstrably special to the community or holds local significance (e.g. wildlife, historical, recreational); and where it is 'local' in character and not an extensive area of land.
- 2.8** Compared to the previous NPPF, published in 2012, NPPF 2018 places more emphasis on Green Infrastructure as part of supporting social interaction and healthy communities, and there is greater reference to open space.
- 2.9** Paragraph 17 (Core Planning Principles), states that local authorities should consider and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all. Paragraph 156 sets out that Local plans should deliver the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities. This should be based on evidence on the health status, needs and future trends of the local population (Paragraph 171).
- 2.10** Chapter 9 encourages sustainable transport, whereby developments should be located and designed to promote cycling and walking and have access to high quality public transport; and create safe and clearly designated layouts. Chapter 9 also promotes well designed and sustainable neighbourhoods and developments as a way to help reduce congestion and emissions to improve air quality and public health.

**2.11** Paragraph 123 outlines that authorities should aim to minimise environmental pollution, minimising noise pollution impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development.

**National Planning Practice Guidance, (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, October 2019)**

**2.12** The NPPG expands upon what is meant in planning term in relation to healthy and safe communities.

**2.13** The design and use of the built and natural environments, including green infrastructure are major determinants of health and wellbeing. Planning and health need to be considered together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population).

**2.14** Public health organisations, health service organisations, commissioners, providers, and local communities can use this guidance to help them work effectively with local planning authorities to promote healthy and inclusive communities and support appropriate health infrastructure.

**2.15** A healthy place is one which supports and promotes healthy behaviours and environments and a reduction in health inequalities for people of all ages. It will provide the community with opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, and support community engagement and wellbeing.

**2.16** It meets the needs of children and young people to grow and develop, as well as being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population and those with dementia and other sensory or mobility impairments.

**2.17** Planning can influence the built environment to improve health and reduce obesity and excess weight in local communities. Local planning authorities can have a role by supporting opportunities for communities to access a wide range of healthier food production and consumption choices. Planning policies and supplementary planning documents can, where justified, seek to limit the proliferation of particular uses where evidence demonstrates this is appropriate (and where such uses require planning permission). In doing so, evidence and guidance produced by local public health colleagues and Health and Wellbeing Boards may be relevant. Planning policies and proposals may need to have particular regard to the following issues:

- proximity to locations where children and young people congregate such as schools, community centres and playgrounds
- evidence indicating high levels of obesity, deprivation, health inequalities and general poor health in specific locations
- over-concentration of certain uses within a specified area
- odours and noise impact
- traffic impact
- refuse and litter

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- 2.18** Plan-making bodies will need to discuss their emerging strategy for development at an early stage with NHS England, local Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships/Integrated Care Systems (depending on local context), and the implications of development on health and care infrastructure.
- 2.19** A health impact assessment is a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts.
- 2.20** Information gathered from this engagement will assist local planning authorities in considering whether the identified impact(s) could be addressed through planning conditions or obligations.
- 2.21** Alternatively, local planning authorities may decide the identified need could be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 2.22** Turning to education provision the NPPG states that local authorities with education responsibilities forecast the need for new school places and report this to the Government through an annual school capacity survey. They consider natural population change such as birth rates, the effects of parental choice, and estimate additional needs from new housing with reference to pupil numbers from recent developments and other evidence. The Department for Education has published the 'Securing developer contributions for education' guidance for local authorities on estimating pupil numbers from new housing and securing contributions for the creation of additional school places for all education phases (age 0-19 years and special educational needs) over the plan period.
- 2.23** Plans should seek to meet the development needs of their area, including community facilities such as schools. They should, at the most appropriate level, allocate sufficient suitable land for schools to meet the need anticipated over the plan period, taking into account needs that may cross local authority boundaries. Plan-makers will need to work with local authorities with education responsibilities and developers to coordinate the phasing and delivery of housing growth with the delivery of new school places to ensure that sufficient school capacity is available at the right time. Mainstream schools must be of a viable size and format and planned for on the basis of standard class sizes.
- 2.24** Precise site allocation policies provide clarity and certainty by identifying the total amount of land required for education use, with regard to the Department for Education space standards, and any necessary characteristics for the school site such as its shape, accessibility and serviced provision at an appropriate time. Master planning of large developments with multiple developers can help to inform decisions about the appropriate scale and siting of new or expanded schools.
- 2.25** Future-proofing may also be considered, for example designating land adjacent to education sites to allow for future expansion if required. Where a plan safeguards additional land specifically for education, the land can be made available for purchase by the local authority within a suitable period, after which other uses may be permissible. If the additional land is required for education, this will preclude alternative uses for the purposes of land valuation.

- 2.26** In relation to supporting safe communities, the NPPG states that planning provides an important opportunity to consider the security of the built environment, those that live and work in it and the services it provides.
- 2.27** Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) requires all local, joint and combined authorities (as well as National Parks, the Broads Authority and the Greater London Authority) to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder, and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. Crime for these purposes includes terrorism.
- 2.28** Good design that considers security as an intrinsic part of a masterplan or individual development can help achieve places that are safe as well as attractive, which function well, and which do not need subsequent work to achieve or improve resilience. However good security is not only about physical measures and design; it requires risks and mitigation to be considered in a holistic way.
- 2.29** Local, joint and combined authorities may find it helpful (either through decision taking or plan-making) to undertake a Security Considerations Assessment (SCA) process or take into account a SCA process undertaken by developers and other applicants as part of the design, construction and management of new developments or assembling a masterplan. SCA provides a mechanism by which organisations can demonstrate, through a fully documented process, that potential security-related vulnerabilities have been identified, assessed and, where necessary, addressed in a manner that is appropriate and proportionate.
- 2.30** Good design means a wide range of crimes from theft to terrorism are less likely to happen by making committing those crimes more difficult. It helps create safer places, infrastructure and buildings that are less vulnerable to terrorist attack and, should an attack take place, where people are better protected from its impacts. It can also reduce the cost and impact of security measures by avoiding retrospective works and enable mitigating measures to be blended into the environment.

### **Localism Act (as amended), (HM Government, 2011)**

- 2.31** The Localism Act, 2011 sets out a number of measures to produce a lasting shift in power, away from Central Government and towards Local Government and local people. The four key measures within The Act are:
- New freedoms and flexibilities for local government;
  - New rights and powers for communities and individuals;
  - Reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective; and
  - Reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally.
- 2.32** One of the measures within The Act 'Reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective' includes various provisions to improve the planning system locally. Under this measure, Regional Strategies, first introduced in 2004, were abolished, as they were considered centrally-driven and gave local communities little opportunity for input.



- 2.33** The Duty to Cooperate function has also been introduced under this measure to ensure that neighbouring local authorities work more holistically and collaboratively on planning issues. This is because planning issues, such as flooding, housing and public transport, have impact across borough boundaries, and so a more collaborative approach is required to reflect shared interests, issues and opportunities towards a common goal.
- 2.34** Under The Act new rights for communities to produce Neighbourhood Plans have been introduced, which will allow communities to work together to plan for the future of their local areas. The Plans would, when approved by the local authority, become a planning document, able to set out where development in the local area should go, given it is in line with national and local planning policies. As part of this, new duties for local authorities to support Neighbourhood Planning have also been introduced under this measure. Local authorities are required to provide technical advice and support neighbourhood groups in producing their plans, ensuring statutory functions and local policy is reflected in the plans.
- 2.35** Another important function introduced under this measure, is the 'Community Right to Build'. This function gives groups of people in the local community the power to build new community based developments, including housing, businesses, shops, playgrounds or community halls, providing they meet certain criteria. This right aims to ensure that benefits of the development, such as profits from letting homes, remain within the community and can go towards other community functions.
- 2.36** The Act also includes measures to reform how Local Plans are made. Through giving local authorities more freedom in what they can include in their plans and how they report progress, it aims to promote more community focused plans and encourage progress to be reported directly to local communities, who are most affected, rather than central government.
- 2.37** Other planning reforms set out within The Act include, strengthening enforcement rules to tackle abuse of the planning system and protect communities; requirement to consult communities before submitting certain planning applications; reforming the community infrastructure levy, making it more flexible to allow communities to benefit more effectively from development; the abolishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, to ensure that national significant infrastructure projects are Government Ministers responsibility, who are directly accountable to the public.
- 2.38** There are also measures set out within The Act which aim to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally and the housing policy allows flexibility based on local circumstances. This includes measures to help vulnerable people, including provision allowing authorises to meet their duty to reduce homelessness by providing accommodation offers in the private rented sector, rather than solely focusing on the socially rented sector like before; and better regulations to protect both tenants and landlords.

### **Northern Powerhouse Strategy, (HM Government, 2016)**

- 2.39** The Northern Powerhouse is a vision for joining up the North's great towns, cities and counties, pooling their strengths and tackling major barriers to productivity to unleash the full economic potential of the North. The strategy sets out the government's priorities for delivering this vision. It's objective is to achieve a sustained increase in productivity across the whole of the North, creating an economy that works for everyone.

- 2.40** The strategy recognises the significant potential of the towns and cities of the North of England, as a home to 15 million people, over one million private sector businesses and accounting for 19% of the UK economy's output. In addition, the region is home 20 universities, 4 of which rank in the top 100 universities globally. It is hoped that the Northern Powerhouse will provide fresh opportunities to drive improvements in connectivity and skills throughout the region and strengthen the cross-border economy. However, it also recognises the persistent barriers to productivity and success which the North faces including limited and fragmented connectivity, below average levels of skills, lower levels of enterprise and innovation and lower levels of trade and investment.
- 2.41** Chapter 3 'Skills' recognises that there are regional disparities in the education and skills system which have an impact on attainment and choices made at 16 years of age. Northern businesses report that they struggle to attract the highly skilled workforce that they need, which has an impact on performance and growth. Addressing these challenges is crucial to delivering the Northern Powerhouse and so this section focuses on improving schools to raise skill levels across the region, but also aims to support easily years provision, identifying that outcomes at age 5 are a key indicator of how children will perform later in life.
- 2.42** Chapter 3 'Skills' also focuses on increasing opportunities and improving career prospects. It encourages local providers working with employers and providers to develop careers advice and guidance services and quality apprenticeship and skills development programmes.
- 2.43** Finally, this section highlights the need to reinforce the attractions of the North to retain and attract skilled workers to the region, promoting the region as a great place to live and work. This includes promoting graduate schemes, particularly in highly skilled and emerging industries; supporting improvements in housing, including increasing affordable housing provision; and promoting and supporting cultural and art projects, such as the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and the Great Exhibition of the North projects.

#### **Equality Act, (HM Government, 2010)**

- 2.44** The Equality Act, published in 2010, brings together previous anti-discrimination legislation into a single Act. It provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals, sets out the ways in which it is unlawful to treat someone and promotes a fairer society.
- 2.45** The Act imposes duties on Public Sector organisations, such as Council's, to ensure that they have regard to eliminate the types of conduct prohibited under the Act. Any service or working practises of Public Sector organisations, including any services of Planning must follow the laws within the Act and should promote a fairer, more equal society, where everyone can benefit.

#### **The Health and Social Care Act, (HM Government, 2012)**

- 2.46** The Health and Social Care Act puts clinicians at the centre of commissioning, frees up providers to innovate, empowers patients and gives a new focus to public health. The Act is a 'case for change' for the NHS, ensuring it is fit to meet present and future challenges. The Act proposes to create an independent NHS Board, promote patient

choice, and to reduce NHS administration costs. The key focus of The Act is to enable and encourage modernisation of the NHS, namely more effective integration between services.

### **Key areas of The Act:**

- Establishes an independent NHS Board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidance;
- Increases GPs' powers to commission services on behalf of their patients;
- Strengthens the role of the Care Quality Commission;
- Develops Monitor, the body that currently regulates NHS foundation trusts, into an economic regulator to oversee aspects of access and competition in the NHS; and
- Cuts the number of health bodies to help meet the Government's commitment to cut NHS administration costs by a third, including abolishing Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities.

### **Key Legislative Changes:**

**2.47** The provisions in The Act are designed to meet these challenges, by making the NHS more responsive, efficient and accountable. The key changes are:

- Clinically-led commissioning – puts clinicians in charge of shaping services, enabling funding to be spent more effectively. Supported by the NHS Commissioning Board, new clinical commissioning groups will now directly commission services for their populations.
- Provider regulation to support innovative services - The Act enshrines a fair-playing field in legislation for the first time to enable patients to be able to choose their services which best meet their needs, including charity or independent sector providers. Providers will be free to innovate to deliver quality services and will be monitored by a specialist regulator.
- Greater voice for patients – The Act established new Healthwatch patient organisations locally and nationally to drive patient involvement across the NHS.
- New focus for public health – The Act provides the underpinnings for Public Health England, to drive improvements in the public's health.
- Greater accountability locally and nationally – The Act sets out clear roles and responsibilities, whilst keeping Ministers' ultimate responsibility for the NHS. It limits political micro-management and gives local authorities a new role to join up local services.
- Streamlined arms-length bodies – The Act removes unnecessary tiers of management, releasing resources to the frontline. It also places NICE and the Information Centre in primary legislation.

### **Cross-cutting themes of The Act:**

- Improving quality of care
- Tackling inequalities in healthcare
- Promoting better integration of health and care services
- Choice and competition
- The role of the Secretary of State
- Reconfiguration of services
- Establishing New Bodies
- Research
- Education and Training

### **The Care Act, (HM Government, 2014)**

**2.48** The Care Act 2014, is the most significant legislation in adult social care in over 60 years, bringing together previous legislation, regulations and policy. The Care Act places a duty on local authorities to “establish and maintain a service for providing people in its area with information and advice relating to care and support for adults and support for carers”.

**2.49** Under the Care Act, local authorities have the following new functions, which aim to make sure that people who live in their area:

- receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious, or delay the impact of their needs;
- can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support; and
- have a range of provision of high quality, appropriate services to choose from.

### **From Evidence into Action: Opportunities to protect and improve the nation’s health, (Public Health England and National Health Service, 2014)**

**2.50** The ambition of the strategy is for the people of the UK to live as well as possible, as long as possible, by tackling health challenges and resource pressures. In collaboration with Public Health England, the NHS Five Year Forward View and the return of public health to local authorities, it is hoped a collaborative, localised and multi-disciplinary approach to public health can be put into practise. The report sets out seven key priorities where through working with partners in local and national government, the NHS, the voluntary and community sector and industry and academia, a significant difference can be made over 5-10 years.

**2.51** It recommends that with support from Public Health, local authorities tap into the power of ‘place-based approaches’ and community development, harnessing collective assets and resources available locally to address local needs. The report encourages local authorities use and contribute to a ‘what works’ approach, applying evidence and best practise techniques to achieve the public health outcomes.

**2.52** Seven priorities have been identified to focus these efforts, which do not necessarily represent the full range of contributions being made to improve the public’s health, but are areas identified as most in need of improvement in the next five years:

- Tackling obesity particularly among children;
- Reducing smoking and stopping children starting;
- Reducing harmful drinking and alcohol-related hospital admissions;
- Ensuring every child has the best start in life;
- Reducing the risk of dementia, its incidence and prevalence in 65-75 year olds;
- Tackling the growth in antimicrobial resistance;
- Achieving a year-on-year decline in tuberculosis incidence.

### **Health and Care Integration: Making the case from a public health perspective, (Public Health England, 2013)**

**2.53** The document marks the beginning of work on health and social care integration and encourages learning from best practise examples. Public Health England’s centres as part of a local health and wellbeing system, aim to support local areas to be ambitious with their integration plans, helping them to incorporate prevention and a focus on the public’s health and wellbeing. The Better Care Fund will be an opportunity to take forward these transformational changes and Public Health England will support local areas to develop and deliver on the local measures for the fund.

**2.54** Moving on from this background document Public Health England have selected 14 Pioneer project areas to test best practise methods on local health and care projects, which will then inform wider integrated care delivery.

### **Everybody Active, Every Day, (Public Health England, 2014)**

**2.55** ‘Everybody Active, Every Day’ is the national physical activity framework for England. The aim of the framework is to bring about real and long lasting change using a long-term, evidence based approach to embed physical activity into the fabric of daily life, making it an easy, cost-effective and ‘normal’ choice in every community in England. It also aims to engage with professionals, providers and commissioners in health and social care, transportation, planning, education, sport and leisure, voluntary, community and cultural sectors as well as public and private employers to make the case for more physical activity, every day. The framework draws on an international evidence base and sets out the need for action across four domains at national and local levels (Active society, Moving Professionals, Active environments and Moving at scale). The following priorities and actions aim to deliver the framework:

**2.56** Active society - A radical shift in the take up of physical activity, making it a routine part of daily life:

- Physical activity needs to be a main component of policies and planning;
- People in communities will be agents of change;
- Key message of activity being fun and an easy choice;
- A joined-up approach from various sectors.

**2.57** Moving professionals - activating networks of expertise:

- Need to activate professionals in spatial planning, design, development, landscaping, sport and leisure, social care, psychology, the media, trade, unions, transport, education and business to bring about radical change;
- Utilise the existing systems and networks that are already there fostering more joint working;
- In terms of planning, thoughtful urban design, understanding land use patterns and creating transportation systems that promote walking and cycling will help to create active, healthier and more liveable communities. Asset audits should be undertaken to identify innovative uses of community resources.

**2.58** Active environments - creating the right spaces:

- Healthy environments support health, recreation and wellbeing;
- Land use has a big impact on health – green spaces, playgrounds, cycle lanes, age-friendly high streets, all encourage people to be active every day;
- Physical activity needs to be built into daily routines. Environments should support active commutes and recreation;
- Re-shaping existing places can make the difference.

### **Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation, (HM Government, 2015)**

**2.59** The Strategy aims to ensure that everyone can benefit from sport and increase not only participation but harness the multi-dimensional and far-reaching benefits of sport to change people's lives for the better. It concentrates on five key outcomes of physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The delivery of these outcomes will be driven by three broad outputs around engagement in sport and physical activity, sporting success and a strong and resilient sport sector. This strategy builds on the evidence base of 'Everybody active, every day', the national physical activity framework for England produced by Public Health England in 2014.

**2.60** Local Government's Role:

**2.61** Local government's role is to ensure that the multiple benefits of sport can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity. Partnership should be enhanced at a local level, not only with other sporting bodies but with other bodies and organisations such as housing associations, arts sectors, and police and fire services.

**Sport England: Towards an Active Nation, (Sport England, 2016-2021)**

**2.62** The vision is for 'everyone in England regardless of age, background or level of ability to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. We need a sport sector what welcomes everyone, meets their needs, treats them as individuals and values them as customers.'

**2.63** The Towards an Active Nation strategy sets out how Sport England will achieve the outcomes of the Government's 'Sporting Future' Strategy. The key changes set out within the strategy are:

- Focusing money and resources on tackling inactivity;
- Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations for an active life;
- Helping those who are active now to carry on, but lower the cost to the public purse over time, helping sectors to become more sustainable and self-sufficient;
- Putting customers are the heart of the Sport England, responding to lifestyles and helping the sector become more inclusive, especially for groups currently under-represented in sport;
- Keeping pace with digital expectations and technologies;
- Encouraging stronger local collaboration to deliver a more joined-up experience of sport and activity for customers; and
- Encourage innovation and best practise within the sector through applying the principles of behaviour change.

**2.64** The following principles aim to get more people from every background regularly and meaningfully being engaged in sport and physical activity:

- Inactive people becoming active;
- More resilient habits;
- More positive attitudes among young people;
- More diverse volunteers; and
- Improved progression and inclusion in talent development.

**2.65** These principles form Sport England's contribution to the government's five outcomes for the future of Sport in England.



## Sport England Active Design – Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity, (Sport England, Public Health England, 2015)

**2.66** Active Design aims to encourage and promote sport and physical activity through the design and layout of our build environment to support a step change towards healthier and more active lifestyles. It is supported by Public Health England and is part of collaborative action to promote the principles set out in Public Health England’s ‘Everybody Active, Every Day’ strategy, to create active environments that make physical activity the easiest and most practical option in everyday life.

**2.67** The creation of healthy places requires the collaborative input of many different partners, including planning, design, transport and health. This document intends to unify these partners by promoting the right conditions and environments for individuals and communities to lead active and healthy lifestyles. Three Key Active Design objectives from previous strategies, of Accessibility, Amenity and Awareness, underpin Active Design Principles:

- Improving Accessibility – providing easy, safe and convenient access to a choice of opportunities for participating in sport and physical activity and active travel for the whole community;
- Enhancing Amenity – promoting environmental quality in the design and layout of new sports and recreational facilities, their links and relationship to other buildings and the wider public realm; and
- Increasing Awareness – raising the prominence and legibility of sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for physical activity through the design and layout of development.

**2.68** Drawing from the three key Active Design objectives Ten Active Design Principles have been identified, as the figure below illustrates:

### Active Design Principles



1. Activity for all – Neighbourhoods, facilities and open spaces should be accessible to all users and should support sport and physical activity across all ages.



2. Walkable communities – Homes, schools, shops, community facilities, workplaces, open spaces and sports facilities should be within easy reach of each other.
3. Connected walking & cycling routes – All destinations should be connected by a direct, legible and integrated network of walking and cycling routes. Routes must be safe, well lit, overlooked, welcoming, well-maintained, durable and clearly sign-posted. Active travel should be prioritised over other modes of transport.
4. Co-location of community facilities – The co-location and concentration of retail, community and associated uses to support linked trips should be promoted. A mix of land-uses and activities should be promoted that avoid the uniform zoning of large areas to single uses.
5. Network of multifunctional open space – A network of multifunctional open space should be created across all communities to support a range of activities including sport, recreation and play, plus other landscape features including, SUDS, woodland, wildlife habitats and productive landscapes e.g. allotments, orchards. Facilities for sport, recreation and play should be of an appropriate scale and positioned in prominent locations.
6. High quality streets and spaces – Flexible and durable high quality streets and public spaces should be promoted, employing a high quality durable materials, street furniture and signage.
7. Appropriate infrastructure – Supporting infrastructure to enable sport and physical activity to take place should be provided across all contexts including workplaces, sports facilities and public space, to facilitate all forms of activity;
8. Active buildings – The internal and external layout, design and use of buildings should promote opportunities for physical activity.
9. Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation – The management, long-term maintenance and viability of sports facilities and public spaces should be considered in their design interventions.
10. Activity promotion & local champions – Promoting the importance of participation in sport and physical activity as a means of improving health and wellbeing should be supported. Health promotion measures and local champions should be supported to inspire participation in sport and physical activity across neighbourhoods, workplaces and facilities.

**2.69** How Planners can use Active Design:

**2.70** Active Design should be promoted through all planning activity including Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, using clear policy support within the NPPF and supporting Planning Guidance. Achieving as many of the Ten Active Design Principles as possible, and where relevant, will optimise opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles.

**2.71** Working with local communities and stakeholders, Active Design can be explicitly promoted through Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans and has an important role to play in Plan Making activity by:

- Contributing to the evidence base for plans;
- The use of the model in planning policy;
- Inspiring and informing planning policies to promote healthy communities;
- Informing the approach to the use of the CIL; and
- Assisting in identifying relevant health and physical activity indicators to inform the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of planning policy.

**2.72** Planners should also use Active Design in determining Planning applications:

- To assist pre-application discussions;
- To inform the design and layout of development and the description of the design response in Design and Access Statements and other appropriate documentation.

**Public Health in Planning: Good Practise Guide, (Town and Country Planning Association, 2015)**

**2.73** The Public Health in Planning: Good Practise Guide, which brings together existing guidance and best practise examples, aims to promote engagement between public health and planning professions to deliver the best outcomes for communities.

**2.74** The guide states that there are several opportunities for public health to integrate into planning, including:

- Engaging public health on major planning applications;
- Involve health in infrastructure planning;
- Require Health Impact Assessments for certain planning applications;
- Include the measuring of planning's influence on health and wellbeing in monitoring practises.

**2.75** The Guide sets out best practise examples of integrating public health into planning including measures such as, requiring developments to provide open spaces, community and recreational facilities, encourage walking and cycling; controlling location and access to unhealthy food outlets; promote food production; and tackle pollution and crime and disorder through good design.

**2.76** Related to this guide, the TCPA also have supporting guidance on creating healthy environments through integrating public health with planning, including the 'Tackling obesity through planning and development' (2016) report and the 'Planning healthy weight environments' (2014) report. These reports set out six key themes where planning can have a positive impact on public health, and create healthy environments and communities, these are:

1. Movement and access - Walking and cycling environments, local transport services;
2. Open space, recreation, sport and play facilities - Open spaces, natural environment, leisure, play and recreational spaces;
3. Food - Food retail (incl. production, supply and diversity), food growing facilities, public spaces;
4. Neighbourhood spaces - Community and social infrastructure, public spaces;
5. Building design - Energy provision, quality homes and other buildings;
6. Local economy - Town and local centres, high streets, employment opportunities and accessibility.

**NHS Health New Towns Programme, (NHS, Public Health England, Town & Country Planning Association, The King's Fund, PA Consulting and The Young Foundation, 2019)**

- 2.77** The programme worked with 10 'demonstrator sites' chosen in March 2016 from over 100 applicants to help do this. These developments ranged from 900 to 15,000 homes at different stages of the process, with diverse health needs, levels of income and inequalities.
- 2.78** The demonstrator sites were supported to create local programme teams and build partnerships, governance structures, delivery plans and interventions to drive forward their healthy place-making, with the aim of addressing the following objectives:
- Planning and designing a healthier built environment
  - Enabling strong, connected communities
  - Creating new ways of providing integrated health and care services.
- 2.79** The sites have explored the 'how-to' of healthy placemaking, and worked with the NHS, Public Health England, the Town and Country Planning Association, The King's Fund, PA Consulting and The Young Foundation to draw out their key lessons to share with others in these publications. This was further supported by a Steering Group comprising experts drawn from health, local authorities, government, planning, development and academia.
- 2.80** The report outlines the role that Councils have in order to create healthy places. Councils are often best placed to lead the planning, design and management of healthier places and to convene partners to support them. Historically, public health and planning share the same roots – both professions emerged from a desire to create places that would support good health. To deliver healthier places a return to these integrated ways of working is needed.
- 2.81** Given the connection between the built environment and population health, public health teams need to be active participants in planning, housing and development. Their understanding of local populations provides the evidence base for the local

priority actions to support health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. Their data and understanding can support planners to shape places that improve the health of the population.

**2.82** There is also a wider role for councils to play, covering a range of unique functions:

- Councillors play a critical role as the voices of their local community. They should be aware of local health and care issues through engagement with public health and the local NHS and can champion the requirement for communities to be systematically involved in the design of new developments.
- Planning teams need to use evidence provided by their public health and NHS colleagues and translate this into masterplanning, Local Plans and policies including development briefs, planning negotiations and decisions. Local NHS and social care leaders and planning teams should engage together prior to, and during, the development of Local Plans and major developments recognising the roles of all parts of the system such as leisure services. From silos to systems: collaboration to create healthy places
- Transport planners and highway engineers should use the established hierarchy of travel modes in the design of new places, prioritising ease and convenience for walking and cycling, then for using public transport and lastly for travel by car. They should pay particular attention to, or make special provision for, people with disabilities.

**2.83** Finally the report outlined 10 Principles for Healthy Places, these being:

1. Plan ahead collectively
2. Assess local health and care needs and assets
3. Connect, involve and empower people and communities
4. Create compact neighbourhoods
5. Maximise active travel
6. Inspire and enable healthy eating
7. Foster health in homes and buildings
8. Enable healthy play and leisure
9. Develop health services that help people stay well
10. Create integrated health and wellbeing centres

### **Securing developer contributions for Education, (Department for Education, 2019)**

**2.84** This document outlines the Governments aims to enable Local Education Authorities (LEA's) to request S106 monies in relation to development that may have an impact on education provision in the local area. The document notes that the Government have removed the 'pooling' restriction associated with CIL and that LEA's in conjunction with the respective LPA should develop robust charging schedules in order to mitigate the impact of new development. The note states that any contributions should be based upon the following principles:

- Housing development should mitigate its impact on community infrastructure, including schools;
- Pupil yield factors should be based on up-to-date evidence from recent housing developments;

- Developer contributions towards new school places should provide both funding for construction and land where applicable, subject to viability assessment when strategic plans are prepared and using up-to-date cost information;
- The early delivery of new schools within strategic developments should be supported where it would not undermine the viability of the school, or of existing schools in the area.

**2.85** The document notes that it is not intended to replace local approaches which often provide detail on:

- The approach to seeking contributions for education from affordable housing.
- Types/sizes of homes that will be excluded from calculations of developer contributions.
- Education projects developer contributions may fund.
- The minimum viable size of new schools.
- Assumptions about the schools children from a development will attend, when assessing available capacity in affected schools.
- Minimum surplus capacity to allow for fluctuations in demand and parental choice, not counted as available when calculating developer contributions.
- Contributions 'in kind' (land and/or construction).
- Requirements on size and suitability of school sites, including checklists, exemplar layouts and facility specifications.
- Standard planning obligation clauses.

**2.86** As local approaches to securing developer contributions for education are reviewed, they should take account of updated National Planning Practice Guidance, this guidance, and the Department's emerging national methodology for the calculation of pupil yields from housing development.

### **Gear Change (Department for Transport, 2020)**

**2.87** Gear Change is the government's first national cycling strategy, it introduces the case for increasing the amount of trips that are undertaken by walking and cycling, rather than the private car.

**2.88** Increasing cycling and walking can help tackle some of the most challenging issues we face as a society – improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on our roads. Bold action will help to create places we want to live and work – with better connected, healthier and more sustainable communities. It will help deliver clean growth, by supporting local businesses, as well as helping ensure prosperity can spread across the country and level up our nation.

**2.89** Physical activity, like cycling and walking, can help to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions and diseases, including some cancers, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression. Physical inactivity is responsible for one in six UK deaths (equal to smoking) and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone).

**2.90** The recent COVID-19 restrictions have profoundly impacted the way people live, work and travel as evidenced by the public's desire to be more active, and the rise in popularity of cycling and walking (Sport England, 2020). Now, we can embed those changes in people's travel behaviour, increase active travel, and transform permanently how many people move around, particularly in towns and cities.

**2.91** The strategy acknowledges the challenge of achieving lasting behaviour changes and outlines four themes which will focus on enabling walking and cycling to be the preferred way of making short journeys. The four themes are:

#### **Theme 1: Better streets for cycling and people.**

**2.92** This theme set out the ambition to create thousands of segregated cycle lanes throughout England all to a nationally set, high standard. The government are also committed to creating hundreds of "mini Hollands" or Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and at least one "zero emission city".

#### **Theme 2: Cycling at the heart of decision-making**

**2.93** This theme sets out how the government will ensure that cycling is included in all decisions in relation to the built environment and transport infrastructure. The government is committed to spending £2bn in the next four years on cycling infrastructure, they will ensure that no scheme which is to be funded by the Department for Transport is allowed without ensuring segregated cycleways. Other measures include an increase in provision for cycles on buses and trains and improved cycle parking in key locations, such as transport hubs.

#### **Theme 3: Empowering and encouraging Local Authorities**

**2.94** Part of the extra £2bn will be used to increase capacity in Local Authorities to implement new walking and cycling schemes. Local Authorities will also get new powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to enforce infringements, rather than the police. A new government agency, Active Travel England, will ensure that high standards in cycling infrastructure are maintained and will ensure that funding for new transport schemes is linked to how Local Authorities implement new walking and cycling infrastructure.

#### **Theme 4: Enabling people to cycle and protecting them when they do**

**2.95** The government will ensure that anyone who wants training on how to ride a bike, will be able to do so. Additionally, the government will make changes to the Highway Code to ensure that cyclists and pedestrians are given higher priority in the hierarchy of users. The government is also committed to improving the design of lorries so that they able to see cyclists better and are committed to reducing bike theft. Finally, the government will ensure that any local community that wishes to, can trial and then implement a Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

## Regional Context

### **Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: - Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Publication Plan (GMCA, Draft for Approval, 2020) - to be replaced by Places for Everyone**

**2.96** Places for Everyone: A Joint Development Plan Document of Nine Greater Manchester Districts is being jointly prepared, following Stockport's decision to withdraw in late 2020. The nine local Greater Manchester districts agreed that to address strategic matters such as housing need and economic growth as well as issues such as flood risk and strategic infrastructure, it would be best to work on a joint development plan - Places for Everyone. Once Places for Everyone is adopted, all nine Local Plans will be required to be in general conformity with it. As the proposed Places for Everyone evolves, strategic policies can be reflected in draft Local Plans.

**2.97** The Vision in the GMSF is to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old. A place at the forefront of action on climate change with clean air and a flourishing natural environment.

**2.98** It includes the objectives to:

- Maximise the potential arising from our national and international assets: We will enhance our cultural, heritage and educational assets.
- Promote the sustainable movement of people, goods and information: We will ensure new development is designed to encourage and enable active and sustainable travel.
- Ensure that Greater Manchester is a more resilient and carbon neutral city-region.
- Improve the quality of our natural environment and access to green spaces.
- Promote the health and wellbeing of communities.

**2.99** Improving communities is a theme that runs throughout the GMSF:

**2.100** **Policy GM-G 2** 'Green Infrastructure Network' seeks to ensure that a strategic approach will be taken to the protection, management and enhancement of Greater Manchester's Green Infrastructure in order to protect and enhance the ecosystem services which Green Infrastructure provides, including flood management, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Alongside this primary function an enhanced Green Infrastructure network will support wider public health benefits, including promotion of active travel, food growing and recreational opportunities.

**2.101** The protection, management and enhancement of Green Infrastructure will contribute to the development of a Nature Recovery Network for Greater Manchester.

**2.102** The following opportunity areas are identified as having particular potential for delivering improvements to the Greater Manchester green infrastructure network:

- a. Greater Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (Salford and Wigan with connections to Warrington);
- b. Croal-Irwell Valley (Bolton, Bury, Manchester and Salford with connections to Blackburn-with-Darwen and Rossendale);
- c. South Pennine Moors (Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside with connections to Calderdale, Kirklees and High Peak);
- d. West Pennine Moors (Bolton and Bury with connections to Blackburn-with-Darwen and Chorley);



- d. Mersey Valley (Manchester, Stockport and Trafford with connections to High Peak and Cheshire East);
- e. Red Moss and Middle Brook Valley (Bolton);
- f. Hulton Park (Bolton);
- g. Cutacre Country Park (Bolton, Salford and Wigan);
- h. Lower Medlock Valley (Manchester);
- i. Moston Brook Corridor (Manchester and Oldham);
- j. Roch Valley (Rochdale);
- k. Hollingworth Lake and Surrounds (Rochdale); and
- l. Carrington (Trafford)

**2.103** Development within and around the Green Infrastructure Network should be consistent with delivering major green infrastructure improvements within them and should contribute to improvements. Where Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas overlap or are in close proximity to development allocations proposed in this plan appropriate measures to achieve this have been included. Further opportunities for delivering strategic green infrastructure enhancements and additional opportunities will be identified in the appropriate source(s) over time as the overall green infrastructure network evolves.

**2.104** Wherever practicable, opportunities to integrate new and existing green infrastructure into new development will be taken to protect, enhance and expand the green infrastructure network in accordance with the above priorities. Where new or improved green infrastructure is delivered as part of a development, the developer should make appropriate provision for its long term management and maintenance.

**2.105 Policy GM-G6** 'Urban Green Space' seeks to ensure there is an appropriate scale, type, quality and distribution of urban green space across Greater Manchester that can support a high quality of life and other important green infrastructure functions:

- existing urban green space will be protected and enhanced in balance with other considerations; and
- the GMCA and districts will work with developers and other stakeholders to deliver new urban green spaces.

**2.106** Development should be designed to support the positive use of nearby green spaces, such as by offering a high-quality setting, providing natural surveillance, and facilitating easy access by walking and cycling.

**2.107 Policy GM-G 7** 'Trees and Woodland' seeks to conserve trees of heritage value. In making planning decisions and carrying out other associated activities, Greater Manchester's authorities will work to deliver the aims and objectives of the Greater Manchester Tree and Woodland Strategy, aiming to significantly increase tree cover, protect and enhance woodland, and connect people to the trees and woodland around them, including by:

1. Protecting and expanding the mosaic of woodland habitats, linking fragmented areas of woodland, in particular wooded cloughs and pockets of ancient and riverside (riparian) woodland;
2. Encourage habitat diversity through conserving and managing existing woodland and trees that are of heritage, cultural and/or aesthetic value, including ancient woodland and veteran trees;



3. Aiming to plant a tree for every resident in Greater Manchester over the next 25 years as part of the City of Trees initiative;
4. Targeting tree-planting at the areas of greatest need where the green infrastructure benefits can be maximised, whilst avoiding the loss of, or harm to, other priority habitats, including encouraging woodland planting schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land;
5. Establishing a new City Forest Park in Salford, Bolton and Bury, which will provide a vast urban forest close to the City Centre;
6. Considerably increasing the provision of street trees within urban areas;
7. Promoting the provision of community orchards to increase fruit consumption;
8. Securing a diversification of broadleaved species, in order to increase biodiversity and disease resilience;
9. Improving public access to woodland and trees whilst managing the associated pressures;
10. Encouraging the positive management of woodland to bring it into a more productive state, improve habitat diversity, and more effectively contribute to important green infrastructure functions such as flood risk management and carbon storage/sequestration.

**2.108 Policy GM-G 8** 'Standards for a Greener Manchester' states that Greater Manchester will develop standards in relation to:

- Access to natural green space, which seek to maximise the overall proportion of people across Greater Manchester who have access to natural green space. The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) published by Natural England will provide the principal starting point as their focus on ensuring good accessibility to different sizes of green space for all residents make them an appropriate approach at a sub-regional level. More detailed standards regarding specific habitats, designations, quality or functions of green space may be set out in district local plans, taking account of local circumstances and opportunities.
- A Greater Manchester "Green Factor", which sets out the level of on-site green infrastructure that new developments are expected to provide so as to meet their occupants' needs and contribute to the extent and interconnectedness of the wider network. The Green Factor will provide a baseline expectation based on the proportion of the site that is covered by different types of green infrastructure features.

**2.109** Development has a major role in helping to achieve such standards, both through on-site provision of green infrastructure and the creation or improvement of off-site green infrastructure. The site allocations in the GMSF provide opportunities to incorporate major areas of new accessible green infrastructure, delivering overall net gains in green infrastructure value to the benefit of local communities even if the quantity in that particular location may reduce. The way in which existing built areas have developed over time means that it will not be realistically possible to meet all of the standards in all parts of Greater Manchester but they are an important aspiration to work towards wherever possible.

**2.110 Policy GM-S 6** 'Clean Air' seeks to locate and design new development so as to minimise the need to travel.

**2.111 Policy GM-E 1** ‘Sustainable Places’ sets out the aim for Greater Manchester to become one of the most liveable city regions in the world, consisting of beautiful, healthy and varied places, each having the following key attributes that all development, wherever appropriate, should be consistent with:

1. Distinctive, with a clear identity that:
2. Responds to the natural environment, landscape features, heritage assets and local history and culture; and
3. Enables a clear understanding of how the place has developed
4. Visually stimulating, creating interesting and imaginative environments which raise the human spirit through the use of green space, public art and quality design
5. Socially inclusive:
  - A. Responding to the needs of all parts of society
  - B. Enabling everyone to participate equally and independently
  - C. Providing opportunities for social contact and support; and
  - D. Promoting a sense of community
4. Resilient, capable of dealing with major environmental and economic events
5. Adaptable, able to respond easily to varied and changing needs and technologies
6. Durable, being built to last and using robust materials which weather well and are easily maintained
7. Resource-efficient with:

**2.112A.** A low carbon footprint;

**2.113B.** Efficient use of land;

**2.114C.** Minimised use of new materials;

**2.115D.** High levels of recycling

8. Safe, including by designing out crime and terrorism, and reducing opportunities for anti-social behaviour
9. Supported by critical infrastructure, such as energy, water and drainage and green spaces
10. Functional and convenient, enabling people and uses to act efficiently with minimal effort, and responding to needs relating to servicing, recycling facilities, refuse collection and storage
11. Legible, being easy to understand and navigate, with the protection and enhancement of key views and new development well-integrated into the place
12. Easy to move around for those of all mobility levels, particularly by walking and cycling, with enjoyable routes free from obstacles and disorienting stimuli, and with places to rest
13. Well-connected to other places, particularly by public transport and digital infrastructure enabling everyone to take advantage of the employment, cultural and leisure opportunities across Greater Manchester and beyond
14. Comfortable and inviting, with indoor and outdoor environments:

- 
- 2.116A.** Offering a high level of amenity that minimises exposure to pollution; and
- 2.117B.** Addressing microclimate issues such as sunlight, indoor air quality, overheating, shade, wind and shelter
15. Incorporating high quality and well managed green infrastructure and quality public realm, with:
- 2.118A.** Opportunities for recreation and outdoor play for children, and interaction between the generations;
- 2.119B.** Public and private spaces clearly distinguished;
- 2.120C.** C. Development clearly defining, and promoting activity within, public spaces
16. Well-served by local shops, services and amenities, including education and health facilities
- 2.121** **Policy GM-E 3 Cultural Facilities** states that Greater Manchester will proactively develop and support cultural businesses and attractions in our cities and towns through a range of measures including:
- 2.122** 1. Protecting existing heritage, cultural and community venues, facilities and uses;
- 2.123** 2. Supporting the development of new cultural venues in town centres and places with good public transport connectivity;
- 2.124** 3. Promoting new, or enhanced existing, locally-distinct clusters of cultural facilities, especially where they can provide an anchor for local regeneration and town centre renewal;
- 2.125** 4. Identifying protecting and enhancing strategic clusters of cultural attractions;
- 2.126** 5. Considering the use of vacant properties and land for pop-ups or meanwhile uses for cultural and creative activities during the day and at night-time to stimulate vibrancy and viability and promote diversity in town centres;
- 2.127** 6. Maximising opportunities for redundant heritage assets and the role they can play in economic and social well-being;
- 2.128** 7. Considering the designation of ‘Creative Improvement Districts’ where there is evidence that the designation will enhance the local economy and provide facilities and workspace for the creative industries; and
- 2.129** 8. Supporting a mix of uses which derive mutual benefits from, and do not compromise, the creative industries and cultural facilities in the Creative Improvement District in line with the Agent of Change principle. If development would potentially result in conflict between a cultural activity and another use, especially in terms of noise, then the development responsible for the change must secure the implementation of appropriate mitigation before it is completed.
- 2.130** **Policy GM-E 5, Education, Skills and Knowledge** states that significant enhancements in education, skills and knowledge will be promoted throughout Greater Manchester, including by:

1. Enabling the delivery of new and improved facilities for all ages, such as early years, schools, further and higher education, and adult training;
2. Ensuring the delivery of sufficient school places to respond to the demands from new housing, such as through:
  - a. Working with education providers to forecast likely changes in the demand for school places; and
  - b. Where appropriate, requiring housing developments to make a financial contribution to the provision of additional school places and/or set aside land for a new school, proportionate to the additional demand that they would generate; and
3. Supporting the continued growth and success of the university sector, such as through:
  - a. Enhancing the existing campuses and developing new ones;
  - b. Strengthening the world-leading research capabilities and promoting opportunities for business spin-offs; and
  - c. Continuing to develop Greater Manchester as the UK's best destination for students

**2.131 Policy GM E 6 'Health'** states that:

**2.132** New development will be required, as far as practicable, to:

- A. Maximise its positive contribution to health and wellbeing;
- B. Support healthy lifestyles, including through the use of active design principles making physical activity an easy, practical and attractive choice; and
- C. Minimise potential negative impacts of new development on health

**2.133** Improvements in health facilities will be supported, responding to the changing needs and demands of residents, including through:

1. Requiring, where appropriate, the provision of new or improved health facilities as part of new developments that would significantly increase demand;
2. Enabling the continued enhancement and successful operation of Greater Manchester's hospitals; and
3. Facilitating greater integration of health and social care, and the provision of integrated wellness hubs, including the co-location of health, community and wellness services.

**2.134 Policy GM-E 7 'Sport and Recreation'** sets out the desire for Greater Manchester to create A network of high quality and accessible sports and recreation facilities will be protected and enhanced, supporting greater levels of activity for all ages, including by:

1. Creating a public realm that provides frequent opportunities for play and that all ages can enjoy together
2. Developing a Greater Manchester wide standard for the provision of designated play areas to meet the needs of the population

3. Where appropriate setting out more comprehensive and detailed recreation standards in district local plans, having regard to existing and future needs
4. Requiring new development to support the achievement of GMSF and local plan standards by providing new and/or improving existing facilities commensurate with the demand they would generate
5. Locating and designing recreation facilities and housing so as to minimise the potential for complaints due to disturbance to residential amenity from recreational activity
6. Protecting and enhancing the public rights of way network, including to:

**2.135a.** Provide safe and attractive routes to sports and recreation facilities

**2.136b.** Improve access to, and connections between different parts of, the green infrastructure network across Greater Manchester and beyond

**2.137c.** Expand the network of strategic recreation routes offering longer distance opportunities for walking, cycling and horse-riding

**2.138d.** Provide everyday options for green travel

7. Encouraging the incorporation of sports facilities in all education settings.
8. Enabling the continued development of major sports facilities and events, which can further enhance Greater Manchester's international sporting reputation.

**2.139 Policy GM-N 2 'Digital Connectivity'** details how Greater Manchester's ten local authorities and the GMCA support the provision of affordable, high quality digital infrastructure. Developers are expected to work and share costs with telecoms operators as appropriate to maximise coverage and enable consumers to make informed choices. It is expected that internet connections will work immediately when residents move into new properties. In making decisions Greater Manchester's authorities will support a range of measures, including:

1. Enabling the roll-out of latest generation mobile technology and full fibre to the premises connectivity, in a way that maximises coverage whilst protecting townscape quality and ensuring an ability respond to updated/changing technology;
2. Requiring all new development to have full fibre to premises connections, unless technically infeasible, and to incorporate multiple-ducting compliant with telecoms standards, to facilitate future-proof gigabit-capable network connections; and
3. Facilitating the provision of free, secure, high speed public wi-fi connections, particularly in the most frequented areas.

**2.140 Policy GM-N 4 'Streets for All'** sets out the strategy to transform Greater Manchester's streets so that they will be designed and managed to make a significant positive contribution to the quality of place and support high levels of walking, cycling and public transport, including by:

1. Understanding the 'movement and place function' of streets as the starting point for improvement;
2. Ensuring that streets are welcoming for all, and respond to the needs of those with reduced mobility;
3. Delivering new and improved routes as part of the walking and cycling network;

4. Maximising the ability of pedestrians and cyclists to navigate easily, safely and without delay, and minimising barriers and obstacles to their movement;
5. Providing frequent opportunities for people to rest, linger and socialise, and for children to play, particularly in streets with a high 'place function';
6. Setting aside space for cycle parking (including for bike-sharing schemes where appropriate), high quality public transport waiting areas, and other facilities that will support sustainable modes of travel;
7. Incorporating increased levels of greenery wherever possible;
8. Offering shelter from wind and rain, and shade from the sun;
9. Delivering priority public transport and facilities for public transport users;
10. Providing appropriate places and routes for servicing, deliveries and 'drop-off';
11. Mitigating the impacts of air and noise pollution from road transport;
12. Ensure the efficient movement of people and goods on streets with a high 'movement function'; and
13. Harnessing new mobility innovations such as traffic signals technology and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle charging networks.

**2.141 Policy GM-N 5** 'Walking and Cycling Network' sets out that a higher proportion of journeys made by walking and cycling will be achieved by:

1. Creating a safe, attractive and integrated walking and cycling network, connecting every neighbourhood and community across Greater Manchester;
2. Ensuring routes are direct, easily navigable and integrated with the public transport network;
3. Creating, where practicable, dedicated separate space for people walking and cycling, with pedestrians and cyclists given priority at junctions;
4. Increasing the capacity of the walking and cycling network in locations where significant growth in the number of short journeys is anticipated and where quality of place improvements are proposed; and
5. Utilising and enhancing green infrastructure to create opportunities for walking and cycling.

**Greater Manchester Strategy ' Our People, Our Place', (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2015)**

**2.142** 'Our People, Our Place' sets out GMCAs ambitions for the future of the city-region of being one of the best places in the world. It builds upon the previous two Greater Manchester Strategy's (2009 and 2013) and covers health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, skills, training and economic growth.

**2.143** The vision is to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old:

- A place where all children are given the best start in life and young people grow up inspired to exceed expectations.
- A place where people are proud to live, with a decent home, a fulfilling job, and stress-free journeys the norm. But if you need a helping hand you'll get it.
- A place of ideas and invention, with a modern and productive economy that draws in investment, visitors and talent.

- A place where people live healthy lives and older people are valued.
- A place at the forefront of action on climate change with clean air and a flourishing natural environment.
- A place where all voices are heard and where, working together, we can shape our future.

**2.144** The Strategy is focused around 10 priorities:

1. Children starting school ready to learn;
2. Young people equipped for life;
3. Good jobs for people to progress and develop;
4. A thriving economy;
5. World-class connectivity;
6. Safe, decent and affordable housing;
7. A green city for all;
8. Safe and strong communities;
9. Healthy lives and quality care;
10. An age-friendly GM.

**2.145** In relation to communities, Priority 8 'Safe and Strong Communities', Priority 9 'Healthy Lives and Quality Care' and Priority 10 'An Age-Friendly GM' are particularly relevant.

**2.146** Priority 8 'Safe and Strong Communities' vision is for every neighbourhood in GM to be a place where people want to live: clean, safe, cohesive neighbourhoods where people are involved and active.

**2.147** Within this Priority, the following ambitions for GM are set out:

- Strong, inclusive communities where people feel safe;
- The most resilient city-region in the UK;
- Reducing risk and harm to residents;
- Protecting and supporting children and young people and those that are vulnerable.



**2.148** To contribute to these outcomes, two targets have been set for the city-region. Firstly, that over the period to 2020, victimisation rates will be in line with or below the England and Wales average. Secondly, that by 2020, GM will meet or exceed the national average for the proportion of adult social care users and carers who have as much social contact as they would like.

**2.149** Priority 9 'Healthy lives, with quality care available for those that need it' has a vision to improve the life expectancy of Greater Manchester, which is currently below the national average, and improve inequality in health outcomes, particularly for the most disadvantaged people. The aim is to make radical improvements to public health services and engage and promote people to lead healthier, more active lives.

**2.150** Within this Priority, the following ambitions for GM are set out:

- Improved health of residents;
- Transformed care and support that residents can access;
- Better care for residents;
- Ensure research, innovation and growth informs the development of services;
- Financial balance and secured sustainability of services now and in the future.

**2.151** To contribute to these outcomes, a number of targets have been set for GM, including improving mortality due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease; access to evidence based psychological therapies will reach 25% of the population in need; and 72.5% of residents will be active or fairly active, compared to 71% in 2016.

**2.152** Priority 10 'An Age-Friendly GM' sets out a vision for Greater Manchester's rapidly ageing population to be able to contribute to and benefit from sustained prosperity and enjoy a good quality of life. In collaboration with the work and research of the GM Ageing Hub, a coordinated action plan for ageing populations will be set out, ensuring there are opportunities for people as they age, people live in age-friendly neighbourhoods, and that levels of social exclusion and disadvantage of older people are reduced.

**2.153** The following ambitions are for GM are set out within this policy:

- The first age-friendly city-region in the country;
- Recognised as a global centre of excellence for ageing; and
- Increased levels of economic participation in the over 50s, with older people being able to remain economically active for longer.

**2.154** These ambitions are supported by targets for GM, including that by 2020:

- 90% of people aged over 50 in GM will identify their neighbourhood as age-friendly, compared to 80% in 2017;
- 5,000 more 50-64 year olds will be in employment, compared to 2016;



- Reduced hospital admissions amongst residents due to falls from 10,426 in 2015/16 to 9,700 per annum; and
- Meet or exceed the national average for the proportion of adult social care users and carers who have as much social contact as they would like.

### **Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Social Value Policy (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2014)**

**2.155** This policy sets out how the Combined Authority will deliver social value through their commissioning and procurement activities and priorities in relation to social value. The policy sits under the Greater Manchester Strategy (2009, 2013 and 2015), which sets the overall strategic framework. In conjunction with The Public Services (Social Value) Act (2012), the policy provides an opportunity to deliver a cohesive, flexible and innovative approach to generating social value through public procurement. In particular it aims to define social value and set the policy context for GM, set out the priority policy objectives, and set out a GM Social Value Framework.

**2.156** The objectives of the policy are:

- Promote employment and economic sustainability;
- Raise the living standards of local residents;
- Promote participation and citizen engagement;
- Build the capacity and sustainability of the voluntary and community sector;
- Promote equity and fairness, target disadvantage and deprivation;
- Promote environmental sustainability.

### **Standing Together - Greater Manchester's plan for safer, stronger communities (Police and Crime Plan), (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Police, 2018)**

**2.157** The Police and Crime Plan sets out the priorities for police, community safety organisations, victim support and criminal justice services to help build a safer, stronger Greater Manchester.

**2.158** The plan recognises the issues currently faced by GMs Police Force, including a budget cut of more than £200 million which has resulted in the loss of 2,000 police officers, yet at the same time an ever increasing number of serious and complex issues to deal with, including cybercrime, terrorism and human trafficking, alongside the 3000 calls for help each day. As such, through increased and more effective partnership working the Plan has identified three key priorities for action:

1. Keeping people safe
2. Reducing harm and offending
3. Strengthening communities and places

**2.159** Priority three 'Strengthening communities and places' is especially relevant to planning. Priority three recognises the role of communities and places in fostering cohesion, safety and crime reduction. It sets out a number of objectives, such as:

- Adopt integrated town centre management practises which can help build vibrant night-time economies, with increasing numbers of visitors having confidence that our town centres are safe places to visit;
- Make our transport network safe and accessible, improving lighting and CCTV systems, as part of the safer travel initiative;
- Fund the development of people and groups in local places which foster a sense of community; and
- Target hardening and designing-out crime to make buildings and public spaces less vulnerable to crime.

**Taking charge of our health and social care in Greater Manchester - The Plan, (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2015)**

**2.160** Across Greater Manchester the ambition is to improve outcomes for residents, increasing interdependence and reducing demand on public services. In order to respond to unprecedented challenges over the next five years in health and social care provision, health and social care reform is placed at the heart of the GM city-region reform growth agenda. Taking charge of our health and social care in Greater Manchester - The Plan' (hereafter called 'The Plan') details how this agenda will be managed and delivered.

**2.161** In relation to devolution, April 2016 marked a new era in GM's history as it became the first region in the country to have devolved control over integrated health and social care budgets, a combined sum of more than £6 billion. 'The Plan' shows that GM has seized this unique opportunity to shape its future, drawing on assets of world-class public services, a strong business base, and healthy, strong communities.

**2.162** The vision of 'The Plan' is 'to deliver the fastest and greatest improvement in the health and wellbeing' of the 2.8 million people living across GM, creating a strong, safe and sustainable health and care system that is fit for the future. Action needs to be across a whole range of care services; upgrading our approach to prevention; early intervention and self-care; redefining how primary, community and social services become the cornerstone of local care; standardising and building upon our specialist hospital services through the development of shared hospital services; and creating efficient back office support

**2.163** To deliver the vision and ambitions for health and social care provision in GM 'The Plan' will focus on delivering change in two critical areas:

1. Creating a new health and care system that is localised, accountable, joined-up, efficient and integrated.
2. Reaching a 'new deal' with the public of GM. Public services will take charge of and responsibility for their localities.

## **The Greater Manchester Population Health Plan 2017-2021 (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, NHS England, 2017)**

**2.164** The Plan sets out Greater Manchester's approach to delivering a radical upgrade in population health. The Plan is aligned with the wider approach to reform across GM, as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy (2013, updated 2015), for a new relationship between people and public services; connecting people to opportunities of growth and reform; place-based integration of services and orientating the system towards early intervention and prevention. This document forms the Health and Social Care 'Plan' as set out in the 'Taking charge of our health and social care in Greater Manchester - The Plan' document and is also informed by and informs other GM strategic plans - The GMSF and the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan.

**2.165** The vision echo's the 'Taking charge of our health and social care in Greater Manchester' vision 'to achieve the greatest and fastest improvement to health, wealth and wellbeing of the 2.8 million people who live in Greater Manchester'.

**2.166** The Plans objectives are:

- Person and community centered approaches - partnership and integrated working;;
- Start Well - more GM children will reach a good level of development and fewer issues and better outcomes for babies;
- Live Well - more GM families will be economically active and family incomes will increase; fewer deaths from cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular disease and
- Age Well - more people will be supported to stay well and live at home for as long as possible.

## **2.167 Greater Manchester Moving: The Plan for Physical Activity and Sport 2017-2021 (Greater Manchester Combined Authority & GM Moving, 2017)**

**2.168** The documents sets out the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester. It sets out GM's shared ambition to achieve a major increase in the number of people engaged in physical activity, in line with Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. To achieve this GM will adopt system-wide changes to address health inequalities and build the resilience of local communities. The Greater Manchester Moving plan cements the ambitions of Sport England, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, and sets out the approach GM will take together, to bring about a population-level change in people's relationship with physical activity within Greater Manchester.

**2.169** In relation to the impact on the built environment It notes that the design and layout of places across Greater Manchester play a vital role in how active people are. In the future, planners, urban designers, developers, transport planners, housing associations and health professionals will help to design and create environments which help people get more active, more often.

**2.170** The Strategy sets out a number of Priority Actions which have an impact on the Built Environment, such as:

- Ensure that the Spatial Framework for Greater Manchester supports and enables more active lives, healthier, more resilient places and communities through high quality spatial planning.
- Establish a 'Greater Manchester standard', informed by the ten principles of Active Design and other evidence/best practice, supporting Greater Manchester partners to work through the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Local Plans.
- Ensure that master planning for all developments consider Active Design from the start.
- Support a wide-ranging workforce from planners to developers to understand and embed active design principles in their work, showcasing excellent practice, and demonstrating how places designed for active lives are also more appealing and commercially viable.

### **Streets for All, (Greater Manchester Combined Authority & Transport for Greater Manchester, 2019)**

**2.171** Streets for All presents a new approach to planning the streets of Greater Manchester. The initiative looks to create streets that better balance the movement of people and goods with the creation of more people-friendly places.

**2.172** Streets for All takes clear inspiration from London's renewed focus on streets –approaching streets as places, not just traffic lanes. It takes account of both movement and place functions within streets.

**2.173** As a holistic approach, Streets for All moves away from planning for transport modes, and towards putting people first to better shape and manage our streets. This will help us create more sustainable, healthy and resilient places across Greater Manchester; overall leading to an improved quality of life for those who live, work and visit our great city region.

**2.174** Streets for All has been undertaken to establish a common approach to street design that can be used across Greater Manchester to help better plan our streets. This document explores key issues and potential interventions along a key 'Orbital' corridor that spans the districts of Wigan, Bolton, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and Tameside.

### **2.175 The Future of Ageing in Greater Manchester, (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2017)**

**2.176** The report provides an evidence based analysis that identifies how GM can bring together its key assets to target a transformation in later life for people, places and our economy. It creates a foundation for further work into Ageing in the city-region. It was produced by the newly established GM Ageing Hub. The report sets the challenge to GM to respond to five cross-cutting strategic recommendations in order to achieve the ambition 'for older residents in GM to be able to contribute to and benefit from sustained prosperity and enjoy a good quality of life'.

**2.177** There are three key priorities of the GM Ageing Hub:

1. GM will become the first age-friendly city in the UK;
2. GM will be a global centre of excellence for ageing, pioneering new research, technology and solutions across the whole range of ageing issues; and

### 3. GM will increase economic participation amongst the over 50s.

The report states that GMs is set to undergo significant demographic change over the next 20 years. Reflecting both global and national trends, the population is ageing. In Greater Manchester the population is set to grow by 13% over the next 20 years and it will be driven by growth in the number of older people, as such:

- The number of GM residents aged 65+ will expand by 53% over the same period to reach 650,000;
- The same period will see a doubling of the number of over 85s in GM to over 100,000;
- Overall the number of residents over 50 in GM will grow by a third by 2039;
- There will be a more diverse older population;
- The concentration of older people will increase in Stockport and more outlying affluent areas;
- Evidence shows that the levels of frailty are increasing over time, especially for the poorest of the population; and
- Nationally, 2017 is expected to see a rise in the ratio of non-workers for the first time since the early 1980s.

**2.178** Whilst the above represents demographic forecasting, the experience of ageing by communities and individuals is not predetermined and the risk is that unless outcomes for older people in GM improve, an ageing population will exacerbate the existing trends of:

- Significant concentrations of income deprivation affecting older people can be found across GM;
- Currently 114,000 over 50s in GM are likely to experience social isolation, which could significantly rise with a predicted increase of 66% in the number of over 75s living alone;
- A rise in the older population could create significant additional demand for treatments for substance misuse, which is already significant in over 50s in GM;
- Current trends suggest an increase in the diversity of our older population, which risks increasing current inequalities between groups; and
- In 2011 there was 36,000 residents diagnosed with dementia. Forecasts suggest this figure will rise by 70% by 2036.

**2.179** The report has produced five key recommendations for the ageing agenda in GM, which centre upon:

- Building a broader-based, polycentric, dynamic leadership of the ageing agenda at all scales and geographies;
- Strengthening links that enable more of GMs immense research and innovation capacity to translate into innovative, effective service delivery;
- Scaling and mainstreaming more of GM's existing successful practice in relation to ageing;
- Strengthening the voice and role of GM residents in shaping and responding to ageing opportunities and challenges; and
- Creating a GM narrative on ageing, enabling the city region to tell a story about ageing to others and itself.

**2.180** It is envisioned that a successful strategy for ageing would apply to older people first and foremost, but a progressive response would also yield wider benefits for GMs neighbourhoods, communities, public services and the economy.

#### **A Sustainable Food Vision for Greater Manchester, (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2017)**

**2.181** The Sustainable Food Vision for Greater Manchester programme aims for the city-region to be structured around six elements of the national Sustainable Food Cities Programme and under each are Greater Manchester's desired outcomes:

1. Promoting Healthy and Sustainable Food: Greater public awareness about healthy eating, improved child health and well-being, increased healthy life expectancy and increased availability of healthy food on the high street;
2. Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food: Eliminating food poverty, increased food education and cooking skills, more accessible and affordable healthy food and supported community food-growing projects;
3. Building sustainable food knowledge, skills, resources and projects: Greater public awareness of food sustainability, improved food knowledge and skills, promoted ethical trade and increased understanding and collaboration between GMs urban and rural communities and clear pathways and processes in place for people to access land for food growing;
4. Promoting a vibrant and sustainable food economy: Artisan and young entrepreneurs supported to start or scale-up a food enterprise, high streets and civic centres are resilient and diverse, greater collaboration between farmers, growers, food processors, distributors and retailers, food production and farming is a viable career choice and community projects and allotment growers are supported to sell their produce;

5. Transforming catering and food procurement: A shared vision for procurement and catering of healthy and sustainable food, public sector procures healthy and sustainable food and private sector supported and encouraged to purchase healthy and sustainable food;
6. Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system: Packaging and food waste in food procurement is minimised, composting and recycling is maximised, the food sector becomes carbon neutral, genetically modified food is excluded from the food chain and an integrated approach to the management of land, wildlife and agriculture is adopted.

**2.182** In order to turn the vision into action the programme encourages a step by step process of action including, local councils supporting existing good practice and local councils taking inspiration from this vision and implementing their own practises, policies and programmes related to a sustainable food future. More information is available at <http://feedingmanchester.org.uk/GMSusFoodStrategy>.

## Local Context

### Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD 'Joint DPD' (Oldham Council, November 2011)

**2.183** The current Local Plan for Oldham, was adopted in November 2011. The vision of the plan includes:

**2.184** *"Oldham will be a borough transformed by economic diversification, growth and prosperity, regeneration, sustainable development and community cohesion that respects our local natural, built and historic environments"*.

**2.185** *"A confident place with safe neighbourhoods and clean, green spaces for all to enjoy. A university town with good education, learning and training to improve the skills and choices of our citizens. An address of choice - a healthy and active place with suitable housing for all - with services of choice"*

**2.186** The plan identified various challenges and changes facing the borough up to 2026. Including an ageing population; growth in Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage communities; a borough population life expectancy less than the national average and higher proportions of 16-74 year olds with no qualifications than the national average. In addition, there are pockets of deprivation particularly concentrated around the inner Oldham area, some of which have higher deprivation scores than the regional and national averages.

**2.187** Many of the identified regeneration initiatives in the plan , including the Building Schools for the Future programme; the Metrolink; the plans for Oldham Town Centre; and the new health and well-being centres across the borough are now completed.

**2.188** Policy 2 'Communities' supports appropriate development that contributes towards creating sustainable communities and promotes community cohesion across the borough, supporting the transformation of education and skills, and contributes to improved health and well-being of people in Oldham.



**2.189** Within Policy 2 support is given for improvements in the health and wellbeing of Oldham's residents by working with the NHS, PCT and other health partners and through the use of developer contributions to new and improved facilities. This will include the current LIFT health and well-being centres programme, which were identified as:

- Chadderton Town Integrated Care Centre - current facility replaced by a new facility;
- Chadderton South Integrated Care Centre - serve the local area, offering GP practices and other services;
- Royton and Health and Well Being Centre - integrate health and leisure services over two phases;
- Shaw/ Crompton Primary Care Centre - Services may include GP, pharmacy and dental services as well as others;
- Fitton Hill Neighbourhood Centre - A neighbourhood campus with a range of community facilities;
- Werneth Primary Care Centre - A multiple GP unit with associated health and social care facilities, library and health cafe.

**2.190** All of the health and well-being centres listed above have now been completed.

**2.191** Also referenced within this policy is the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, which set out the borough's planned school development. This included the following proposed schools:

- North Chadderton School and Sixth Form (remodelled);
- New Roman Catholic School;
- Oasis Academy Oldham;
- Oldham Academy North;
- Waterhead Academy.

All of the proposed schools listed above have now been completed.

**2.192** Numerous other policies within the plan are also of relevance to communities, including Policies 1, 3, 6, 9, 16, 18, 20 and 23.

### **The Corporate Plan, (Oldham Council, 2017)**

**2.193** Oldham's current Corporate Plan expires in December 2020. Work to refresh Oldham's Corporate Plan was due to be completed by summer 2020, however, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that this was no longer viable. Instead, we are in the process of developing our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy which will act as an interim Corporate Plan until at least 2022.



## **Covid-19 Recovery Strategy (Oldham Council)**

**2.194** As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to tackling the impact of COVID-19, protecting our most vulnerable residents and communities. The steps we are taking to tackle the pandemic and the subsequent recovery planning, aim to support people, especially those groups who are often most impacted.

**2.195** Building on the learning so far and the anticipated events to come, we are developing a comprehensive Recovery Strategy, which will help shape our approach and vision for Oldham over the next eighteen months. We do this whilst we continue to respond to an ongoing critical incident where we are focused each day on saving the lives of Oldham's residents.

**2.196** Our objectives and approach to our Recovery Strategy are rooted in the Oldham Model, ensuring as we adapt to a changing world that we build Thriving Communities, an Inclusive Economy and work Co-operatively with each other.

## **Creating a Better Place (Oldham Council, January 2020)**

**2.197** Creating a Better Place focuses on building more homes for our residents, creating new jobs through town centre regeneration, and ensuring Oldham is a great place to visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go.

**2.198** This approach has the potential to deliver around 2,500 new homes in the town centre designed for a range of different budgets and needs, 1,000 new jobs and 100 new opportunities for apprenticeships, and is in alignment with council priorities to be the greenest borough.

**2.199** The report notes that quality of place is paramount to thriving communities. Quality design and attention to public realm are critical to Oldham's success as a place where people feel they belong, an exciting place where people can live, work and spend time.

**2.200** Oldham hopes to create a better place by building quality homes, opportunities to grow local business and create jobs, by ensuring Oldham is the greenest borough and by embedding sustainability. The built environment links into all of these work streams.

## **The Oldham Plan, 2017-2022 (Oldham Council, 2017)**

**2.201** The Oldham Plan is a collective action statement developed and agreed by the Oldham Partnership. It sets out how we can all best serve Oldham and help its people, districts and businesses thrive. The Plan's ambition is 'To be a productive and cooperative place with healthy, aspirational and sustainable communities'.

**2.202** The model to deliver this ambition is based around three fundamental shifts:

1. **Inclusive Economy:** Our vision is for Oldham to become Greater Manchester's Inclusive Economy capital by making significant progress in living standards, wages and skills for everyone.

2. Co-operative Services: Our vision is to collaborate, integrate and innovate to improve outcomes for residents and create the most effective and seamless services in Greater Manchester.
3. Thriving Communities: Our vision is for people and communities to have the power to be healthy, happy and able to make positive choice's and both offer and access insightful and responsive support when required.

**2.203** In relation to 'Thriving Communities', the plan recognises the shift that is taking place from traditional, top-down services to a more co-productive relationship in which people are supported to do more for themselves, their families and their communities. It states that Oldham has done brilliant work in this area recently, with local health and care agencies joining up services and organisations mobilising community assets, to get the best out of citizens. However, it recognises that Oldham is a place where deep social and economic disadvantages still exist and for many everyday life is a struggle.

**2.204** The plan acknowledges that it is not just about improving service offer, but providing a fundamental shift, with citizens enabled, informed and with local support designed for them to improve their own lives. It aims to reinforce community values and invest in social action and infrastructure and to seek an end to inequality, social isolation and loneliness in Oldham.

### **Oldham and Rochdale Urban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Oldham & Rochdale Council's, 2007)**

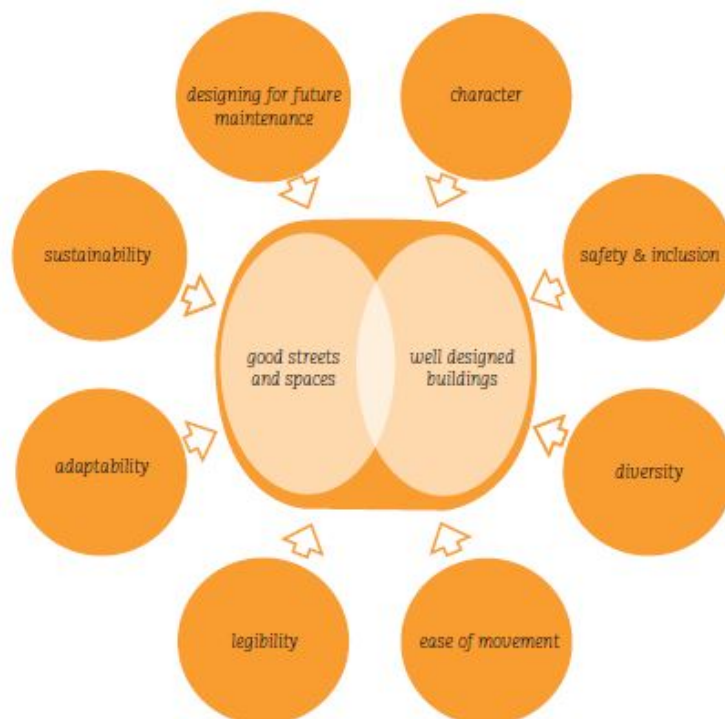
**2.205** The Urban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been jointly prepared by Rochdale and Oldham to support the development plans and provide a basis for achieving high standards and good quality design throughout the borough. It expands on local planning policies and sets design principles for development.

**2.206** The Urban Design Principles set out within the Guide are:

- Character - Enhancing identity and sense of place. Development must respond to its context and contribute to a distinctive sense of place.
- Safety and inclusion - Ensuring places are safe, secure and welcoming for all. Development must positively contribute to making places accessible, safe and must minimise opportunities for crime and disorder.
- Diversity - Providing variety and choice. Development must incorporate a mix of uses, provide for the needs of all sections of society and add richness to the social and cultural diversity of the local area.
- Ease of movement - Ensuring places are easy to get to and move through. Development must provide clear networks of routes to an area, be located to support non-car travel between people and facilities and give priority to pedestrians and encourage a reduction in reliance on the car.
- Legibility - Ensuring places can be easily understood. Development should contribute to a clear, legible environment that has a clear hierarchy of routes, spaces and functions. It should also relate positively to the visual connections between it and its surroundings.

- **Adaptability** - Anticipating the need for change. Development proposals and layouts should be adaptable for the changing and future needs of society.
- **Sustainability** - Minimise the impact on our environment. Development proposals must incorporate measures for reducing energy demands, conserving water resources and flood prevention, make provision for sustainable management of waste and make a positive contribution to supporting bio-diversity and greenery.
- **Designing for future maintenance** - Designing buildings and spaces so that their quality can be effectively maintained over time.
- **Good streets and spaces** - Creating places with attractive outdoor spaces. Development must make a positive contribution to streets and public spaces in the wider townscape, foster social interaction and support an attractive pedestrian friendly environment.
- **Well designed buildings** - Constructing sustainable buildings appropriate to their function and context.

### Urban Design Principles



### The Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership Plan, 2016-2019 (Oldham Council, 2016)

**2.207** This strategy contributes to co-operative strategy's vision (Oldham Plan 2015-2018) for Oldham to be a 'place of ambition where everyone contributes and everyone benefits'. It has a greater focus partnership working, community cohesion and building

an Oldham where people live well together. It also aligns with the strategic priorities set out by the Police and Crime Commissioner of Greater Manchester, as the figure below illustrates.



**2.208** The strategy aims to produce integrated and cohesive neighbourhoods, reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. In terms of planning, improving neighbourhoods through good quality design, access to local services and facilities and promoting mixed use living environments, can contribute to these priorities and ambitions.

**The Oldham Locality Plan for Health & Social Care Transformation, 2016-2021 (Oldham Council, 2016)**

**2.209** The Plan's vision is to achieve and sustain the greatest and fastest improvement in wellbeing and health for the residents of Oldham by 2020. This improvement will be achieved by:

- Supporting people to be more in control of their own lives;
- Having a health and social care system geared towards wellbeing and the prevention of ill health;
- Access to health and care services locally; and
- An integrated social care that works with health and voluntary services to support people to look after themselves.

**2.210** The Locality Plan follows the life course approach adopted by Greater Manchester: Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well. The Plan outlines four key transformational programmes/ themes that will enable Oldham to deliver significant improvements in the health and wellbeing of our residents, such as:

<p><b>Transformation 1</b></p> <p>Establishing an Integrated Care Organisation</p>	<p><b>Transformation 2</b></p> <p>Mental health is central to good health</p>
<p><b>Transformation 3</b></p> <p>Starting Well: Early years, children &amp; young people</p>	<p><b>Transformation 4</b></p> <p>Living Well: Action to build thriving communities and provide early help</p>

**2.211** The plan aims to tackle the health challenges that residents in Oldham face. Currently, life expectancy for both men and women remains lower than the national average and inequality in life expectancy is present between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Oldham. In addition, unhealthy behavior and the presence of multiple long-term conditions are both over-represented among the poorer, more disadvantaged communities; one fifth of households are in fuel poverty and one in four children lives in poverty.

**2.212** In terms of child health, almost half of all five year olds in Oldham have experienced dental decay and a higher than average number of Year 6 children are recorded as obese.

**2.213** In terms of older people, Oldham also has significant issues relating to isolation, fall-related hospital admissions, and dementia.

**2.214** In order to transform the health and wellbeing of Oldham's residents the plan will promote greater partnership working, sharing the risks across more organisations, take advantage of new governance arrangements, such as devolution, and support and be supported by Greater Manchester level strategies.

#### **Oldham's Interim Education Strategy, 2014/15 (Oldham Council, 2014)**

**2.215** The strategy reflects the current direction for education provision in Oldham, prior to the recommendations of the Oldham Community and Skills Commission. The ambition is to 'embed a school-led system over time, putting children and young people at the heart so that they have the best education possible', working with partners and schools to achieve this.

**2.216** The vision for education in Oldham is for "students to leave education as knowledgeable, confident, skilled and aspirational 21st Century Learners who are job or higher education ready with the skills and qualifications they need to make positive life choices and be good and active citizens".

**2.217** In relation to planning, the strategy wants to contribute to Oldham being the place of choice to live and be educated, with good quality facilities for all.

**Oldham's Work and Skills Strategy, 2016-2022 (Oldham Council, 2016)**

**2.218** The strategy supports the corporate plan's vision that 'by 2020 the borough will be a productive place where business and enterprise thrives, with improved education and skills outcomes for all people, giving residents the best possible preparation for adulthood and the world of work'.

**2.219** The strategy aims to achieve four simple strategic goals over the 2016-2020 period:

1. Create jobs;
2. Social regeneration and in-work progression;
3. Deliver the Oldham Education and Skills Commission recommendations and improve the colleges; and
4. Support a thriving private sector.

**2.220** The strategy recognises the major challenges which Oldham faces in employment and skills, including a low level of population skills, a predominantly low wage local economy, alongside demand and demographic pressures. It links with the new regeneration framework for Oldham, to develop a shared ownership of these objectives (set out in the corporate plan) across all partners and providers, and acts as a component of the Oldham Strategic Investment Framework.

**2.221** The strategy notes that Oldham has seen a step-change in physical regeneration in the borough with a particular focus on Oldham Town Centre, alongside bringing forward strategic employment sites. Also there has been a dramatic improvement in the service sector, with further schemes in the pipeline. These both create new pressures, particularly for planning, to ensure growth continues alongside assisting the low skill/ wage economy that has historically characterised the borough's recent economic performance.

**2.222** The link between 'place, people and business' is also emphasised by the strategy, recognising that Oldham needs to be a destination where people and businesses can thrive, and be attracted to.





### Get Oldham Growing, 2016 (Oldham Council, 2016)

**2.223** Get Oldham Growing is a public health funded programme which recognises the impact of growing and eating local food on the health and wellbeing of communities. The programme works in partnership with local people, community groups and local organisations to improve Oldham resident's health, skills and environment through growing, cooking and eating locally sourced food. The programme supports access to land and schools grounds developments to increasing the number of community garden sites and local food enterprises. Get Oldham Growing's vision is to further establish Oldham as a borough with a thriving local food culture and economy.

**2.224** The aims of the programme are to:

- Encourage more residents to grow, cook and eat locally sourced food and engage in food related businesses and community projects;
- Increase the number of sites in the borough used for food growing projects;
- Develop a growing hub in each of the districts;
- Support training and education in food subjects;
- Support and encourage the sharing of skills and resources across Oldham and beyond;
- Support new job opportunities and community businesses.

**2.225** Get Oldham growing supports a member of local projects such as Lees Community Growth Hub, Westwood Community Cooking Initiative, Fatima Women's Association healthy eating project, Firwood Community Garden Project, The Waterhead Park Growing Hub (Veg in the Park) and Alexandra Park Hub.



## **Oldham Council Housing Strategy, July 2019 (Oldham Council, 2019)**

**2.226** The new Housing Strategy (HS) for Oldham sets out the Council's aim to provide a diverse Oldham housing Offer that is attractive and meets the needs of different sections of the population at different stages of their lives. The intention of the HS is to go above the projected number of houses and focus on the dynamics between people, homes and the wider economy. This culminates in "The Oldham Housing Offer" which identifies the following areas of work:

- Greater diversity in the type of new homes built
- More choice in affordable homes and financial products
- Homes attractive to young people
- Homes suitable for older people
- Specialised and supported housing for vulnerable people
- More homes accessible to large and intergenerational families to relieve overcrowding
- Options to 'Do It Yourself' and support for community-led housing
- Greater choice for existing tenants
- Making better use of existing properties by bringing empty homes back into use
- Improved quality and condition of homes and tenancies for private tenants.

**2.227** Amongst other examples of work that will impact upon the local plan, the HS makes reference to the creation of 'Place Plans' for local people to share the long-term future for their neighbourhoods within the wider context of the replacement Local Plan and the GMSF. These 'Place Plans' will be informed by proposed Housing Insights which will outline the housing requirements for the local areas. The HS also states that the Council will develop a 'Healthy Homes' plan to radically improve the quality of the existing housing stock in Oldham, whilst in the future "The Oldham Code" will be developed to ensure a higher standard of quality in the built environment.

## 3 EVIDENCE BASE

### Northern Roots, Oldham Council

Oldham Council are in the preliminary stages of investigating a proposal for a 65 hectare multi-disciplinary Green Infrastructure project called Northern Roots (NR) in the borough. The proposed NR site is located in an area known as Snipe Clough, which extends from Alexandra Park southwards to the border with Ashton-under-Lyne and is predominately Local Authority owned. The Council are working alongside The University of Salford and Planit-IE to produce a masterplan vision of the site which sets out the vision of NR as a place for growing, enterprise, learning and leisure.

The aim for the project is for NR to be a 'productive eco-park, looking to benefit and inspire residents and communities of Oldham, whilst becoming an asset for Greater Manchester and a site of national importance'. Green living and sustainability will be at the heart of the project and it will serve as a live demonstration centre for sustainable technology and practise. The project underpins other significant developments across the borough, including the regeneration of Oldham's town centre and re-provision of the Alexandra Park Depot with a new facility - the Environmental Excellence Centre, adjacent to and providing an anchor for the NR site. It also directly links into the Oldham Plan and the Co-operative Services, Inclusive Economy and Thriving Communities agendas. For example, benefits of the scheme are wide ranging and integrated including:

- Improved links to the town centre and beyond;
- Increased opportunities for recreation, leisure and health and wellbeing;
- Local food production and distribution;
- Education and skills training opportunities;
- A catalyst for new investment in the local economy;
- Improved land management knowledge and experience opportunities; and
- Increased sustainability and biodiversity.

The schemes and activities within the project can also be implemented and expanded across different scales, for example food production schemes could be up-scaled with products grown through NR achieving the NR mark of quality and sold locally and even regionally and nationally.

The project will also link to the Sustainable Food Vision for Greater Manchester, RHS Bridgewater, Salford University and Oldham College, with the aim for collaboration and joint-working in the future.

## 4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1** To begin preparation of the Local Plan the council carried out a 'Regulation 18' notification between July and August 2017.
- 4.2** To inform this work we asked what the local community and stakeholders thought:
- 4.3** a) the Local Plan should contain and what the key planning issues are for Oldham; and
- 4.4** b) what, in broad terms, should be the main aims of the Local Plan.
- 4.5** In addition we published our Integrated Assessment Scoping Report and invited the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England to comment on the scope of the Local Plan. This was also available for the local community and stakeholders to view and comment on if they wished.
- 4.6** The main comments regarding communities that came from the consultation are set out below. They state that the local plan should:

### General

- Highlight the positive points about Oldham such as, green spaces, integrated communities, accessibility to cultural activities and the connectivity to Manchester and beyond;
- Include specific policies for different communities in Oldham, recognising the needs and aspirations of different communities;
- Support mixed communities and integration;
- Plan for the varied needs of our communities that produces long term enhancement of quality of life, rather than short term gains;
- Tackle the issue of significant deprivation in Oldham, with the aim for Oldham to become a more attractive place to live, work, raise families and retire;
- Recognise the role biodiversity and the natural environment has in giving communities sense of belonging and identity, which contributes to health and happiness.

### Local Amenity

- Require social infrastructure to be delivered to support new development;
- Include retail developments with easy access to local communities;
- Promote and support new and improved leisure provision;
- Seek to safeguard and protect existing cultural and community facilities as well as promote new facilities that will support sustainable and healthy communities;

- 
- Seek to create safe, stimulating and comfortable environments, with a lack of crime and other threats;
  - Promote arts and culture provision to help attract and retain residents and a skilled workforce.

### **Health, Wellbeing and Education**

- Promote the benefits of open space and green infrastructure in relation to health and well-being;
- Aim to facilitate the highest level of well-being for residents of the borough;
- Protect open spaces as part of promoting an active, healthy and engaged community;
- Develop more growing spaces within local areas to build healthier communities; and
- Provide adequate provision of education to deal with problems of school's being oversubscribed.

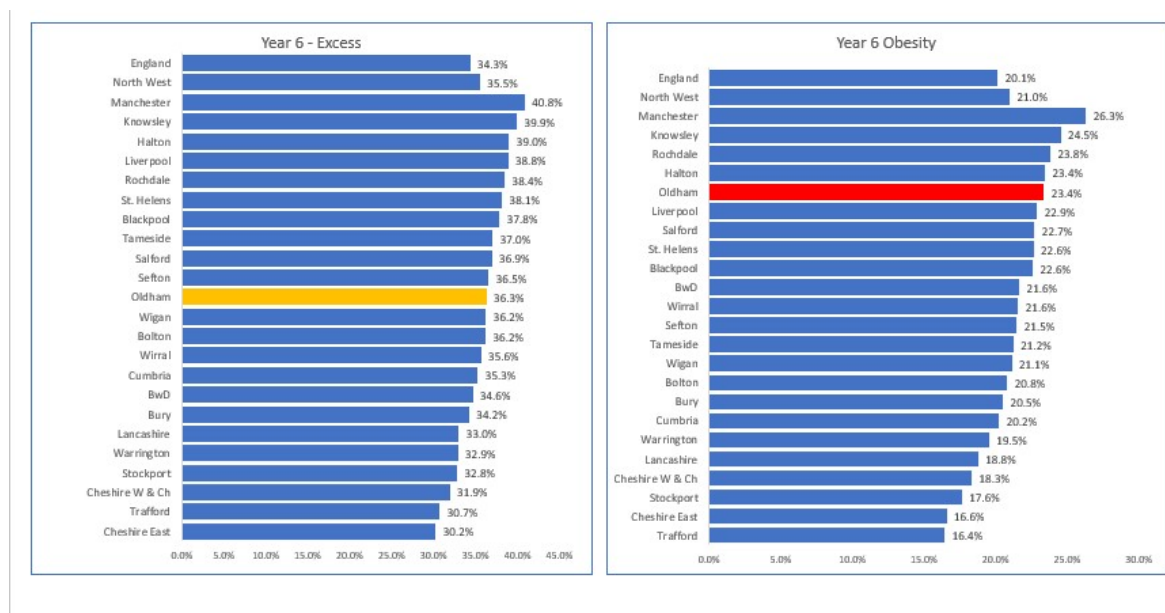
### **Open Space/ Green Infrastructure**

- Maintain current open spaces and protect open land;
- Protect green areas between the urban areas for the quality of life in densely populated areas;
- Require robust consultation where open space is being proposed for development; and
- Promoting the green network has the potential to contribute to creating sustainable communities, in addition to encouraging pedestrian and cycle use for commuting for leisure and recreation.

## 5 FUTURE EVIDENCE REQUIRED

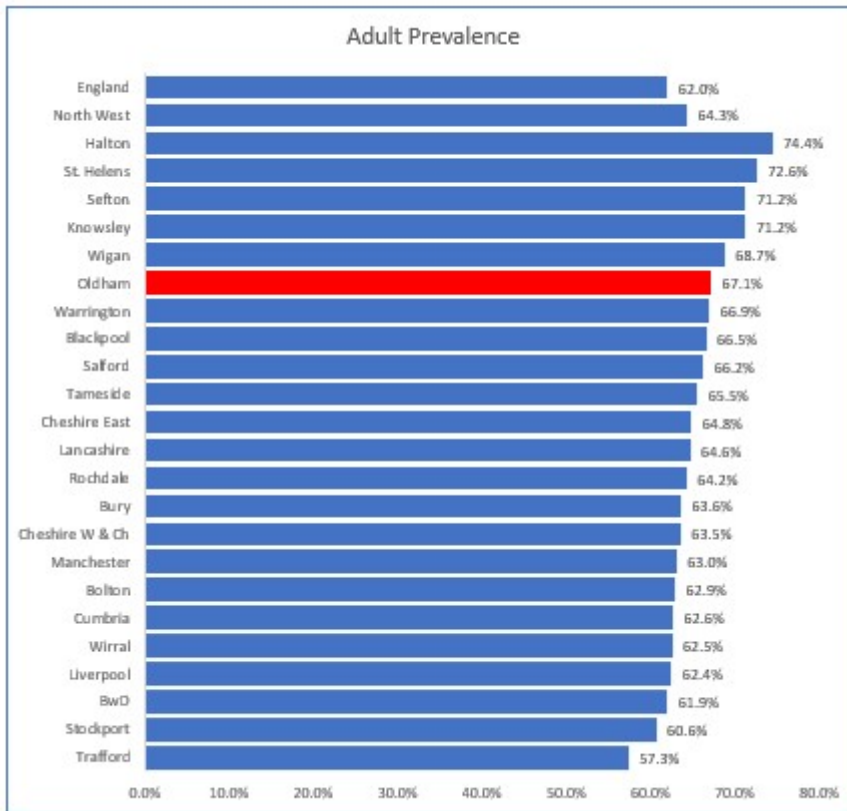
- 5.1** Paragraph 156 of the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should deliver the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities, which should be based on evidence on the health status, needs and future trends of the local population (NPPF, Paragraph 171). As such, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) SPD may be required. This would support Health and Wellbeing related planning policies in the Local Plan, providing further detail on the policies and any requirements deriving from the policies. This could include providing further detail on HIAs, which could be a requirement for major developments.
- 5.2** Within Planning Practise Guidance 'Health and Wellbeing' and Public Health England's 'Active Design' the importance of creating healthy food environments is emphasised. This includes restricting the concentration of hot food takeaways on high streets and close to schools and community facilities and promoting a mix of uses along street frontages to allow a choice of food establishments. As such, a Hot Food Takeaway/ Healthy Food Environment SPD may be required, which would set out further detail on policies related to this type of land use and health and wellbeing.
- 5.3** The need for such an approach is underlined by the evidence showing that Oldham has a far larger proportion of overweight children and high levels of inactivity. As can be seen from the graphics below, Oldham has a higher proportion of children leaving Year 6 in Primary School, who are clinically obese.

**Year 6 Excess Weight & Obesity in Oldham**



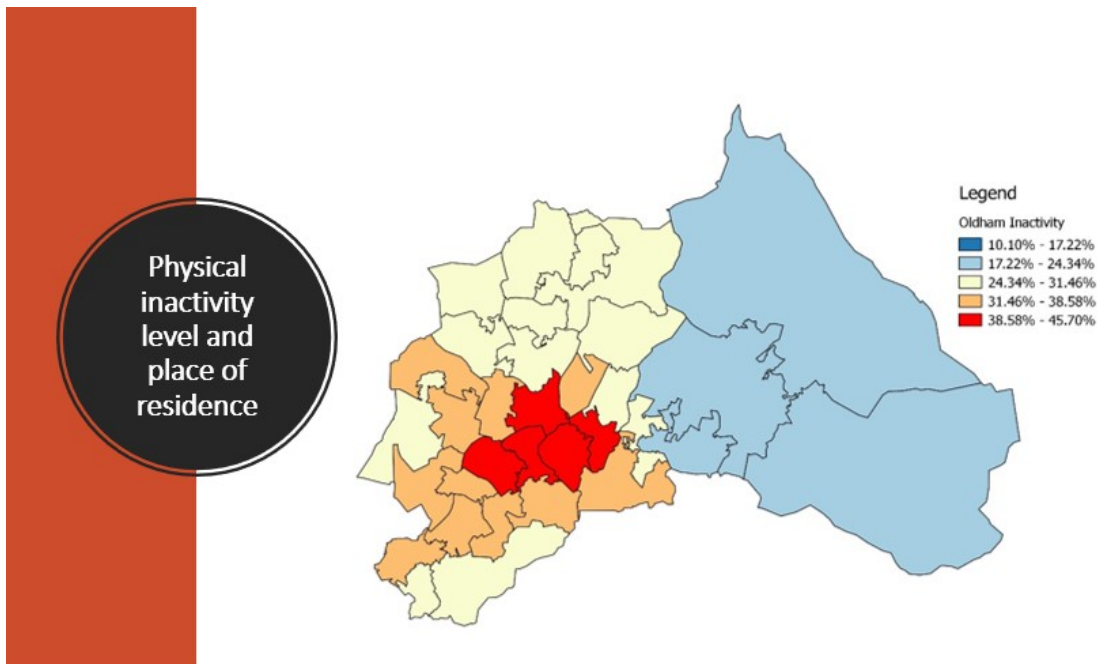
- 5.4** This is compounded by the fact that in Oldham, the percentage of adults who are overweight is over 5% higher than the national average, at 67.1% compared to the national average of 61%.

### Excess weight in Adults in Oldham



**5.5** Further evidence will be required in order to understand why Oldham has lower than average activity in adults. As the map shows below, inactivity is centred around the core of Oldham and gradually improves as you move towards Saddleworth and Chadderton for instance.

## Physical Inactivity and Place of Residence in Oldham



**5.6** The NPPF emphasises the importance of 'good design' in creating the sustainable development in the built environment. NPPG 'Design' expands on what is meant by 'good design' and states that planning policies should support and promote well designed places, which are functional, attractive, adaptable and resilient, have distinctive character, include public spaces, support mix uses and tenures and encourage ease of movement. This is further re-iterated by the recently published National Design Guide from MHCLG which states that:

**5.7** *Places affect us all – they are where we live, work and spend our leisure time. Well-designed places influence the quality of our experience as we spend time in them and move around them. We enjoy them, as occupants or users but also as passers-by and visitors. They can lift our spirits by making us feel at home, giving us a buzz of excitement or creating a sense of delight. They have been shown to affect our health and well-being, our feelings of safety, security, inclusion and belonging, and our sense of community cohesion.*

**5.8** Furthermore, the NDG establishes 10 characteristics which work together to create its physical character, which in turn sustains the sense of community, these themes are:

- Context – enhances the surroundings
- Identity – attractive and distinctive
- Built Form – a coherent pattern of development
- Movement – accessible and easy to move around
- Nature – enhanced and optimised
- Public spaces – safe, social and inclusive
- Uses – mixed and integrated
- Homes and buildings – functional, healthy and sustainable
- Resources – efficient and resilient
- Lifespan – made to last



- 5.9** The previous Design Guidance SPD for Oldham was published jointly with Rochdale in 2007. Therefore there will need to be an updated Placemaking Guide for the borough that will expand on Local Plan policies related to design, to promote high quality design and contribute to 'quality place-making' ambitions set out within the NPPF. Given that the NDG will produce a 'Model' National Design Code, the Council will also have to consider the creation of a Local Design Code as stipulated within the NDG. It is noted that Council is committed to producing "The Oldham Code" which is intended to deal with the quality of the new homes built in the borough, but via the materials and sustainability route (such as solar panels, Passivhaus etc). However, given the requirement to produce a Local Design Code, it could be the case that the Oldham Code is expanded so that it acts as the replacement Placemaking SPD for the Council.
- 5.10** As is mentioned above GM faces significant challenges related to an ageing population over the next 20 years. These issues will need to be addressed to ensure the city-region continues to grow and all residents, young and old continue to benefit and live well. Ageing is becoming a significant field for emerging research and action across GM, with the establishment of the GM Ageing Hub in 2016 who aim for GM to be 'the first age-friendly city in the UK'.
- 5.11** Planning can have significant influence on the issues of ageing, for example including policies for the provision and standards of housing, communities and facilities to support older people. As such, for Oldham to respond to this change and address the challenges related to ageing, a wider understanding on the interrelated and complex issues of ageing may be needed. This may be in the form of a Planning for Ageing SPD.
- 5.12** The RTP1 and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government both recognise the importance of planning in ageing and suggest that where appropriate strategies are produced to support planning policy and guide decisions. The SPD could include guidance on housing for older people, including standards, type, retrofitting and accessibility and adaptability; design, including policies on accessibility in the local environment; and the provision and location of services and facilities, including community focused provision.
- 5.13** As previously outlined, localised food production and sustainability are key issues for the future of Greater Manchester given the climate change related environmental pressures facing Britain in the future and the uncertainty of Brexit on the food supply chain. The Greater Manchester Sustainable Food Vision and Oldham Council through the Northern Roots project share the view that communities should become more educated around food production and sustainability to become more self-sustaining in the future. As the Oldham Council-led Northern Roots project is in the preliminary stages of development, more information related to the project will need to be updated as and when it becomes available, and the scope for planning policy to support the project investigated further.

## 6 KEY ISSUES

6.1 The key issues for Oldham's communities are:

### Community:

- The impact of growing populations in minority populations on community integration and cohesion;
- The impact on neighbourhood make up, community cohesion and less people with increasing demand for housing across GM;
- Pockets of deprivation in the borough, particularly around the inner Oldham area, which have higher scored than the regional and national averages;
- High levels of child poverty in some of Oldham's boroughs. (Which has been recently covered in the media, e.g. Coldhurst has recently been reported as having the worst child deprivation rate in the UK);
- The issue of social isolation and loneliness, particularly amongst older people;
- Poor public realm in some more disadvantaged communities, including often reported issues of fly tipping;
- Ensuring that new developments have a quality public realm and spaces to play for children in order to lessen the need for them to travel off site, unless it is easily accessible.
- Fuel poverty amongst some residents;
- Attracting people to live, work and spend leisure time in Oldham, including promoting its town centres as a destination for people living in and outside of the borough. Also retaining people within the borough when they reach employment age, whilst at the same time promoting its links to GM and the city centre; and
- Encourage and support community food growing and education projects, with a food growing hub in every district.
- Ensuring that co-housing and self build is a genuine option or communities that want to grow their housing stock to ensure that families can live close by or for key workers.

### Health and wellbeing:

- Oldham's ageing population, which brings increasing health and care needs, differing housing needs, a need for appropriate facilities in neighbourhoods close to home and dealing with loneliness;

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- The changing realm of health and social care provision and the additional implications of devolution and Brexit on this. Local authorities now have greater responsibility for their own health and social care services and provision. However, health and social care services continue to be under pressure from increasing demand and budget cuts from central government;
  - Improving the life expectancy of Oldham's residents, that is currently below the national average and inequality in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of the borough;
  - Improving the air quality in areas which are located adjacent to AQMA's and other areas of known, poor air quality as identified;
  - Unhealthy behaviours and the presence of multiple long-term conditions are overrepresented among the more disadvantaged communities; and
  - Child health issues, including higher than average obesity levels for year 6 age children.
  - Improving the quality of the existing housing stock which is acknowledged as being one of the primary factors in ill health and inactivity in Oldham.
  - Ensuring that new development priorities the movement of people over cars, especially for journeys of less than 2km.

**Education:**

- Improving the futures of Oldham's youth and providing opportunities for better prospects to address the issue that the proportion of Oldham's 16-24 year olds with no qualifications is higher than the national average; and
- Improving Oldham's education offer and promoting Oldham as a University town.
- Ensuring that new developments do not have an adverse impact on existing education establishments

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## 7 PLAN OBJECTIVES

**7.1** To promote Oldham as a thriving place, with inclusive, supported communities; welcoming, valued neighbourhoods; and a healthy, educated and skilled population by:

- encouraging the improvement of education and skills provision by identifying suitable sites and encouraging suitable developments of this nature;
- promoting healthy lifestyles for all by encouraging active design in neighbourhoods and accessible outdoor space as part of developments;
- improving the health of residents but facilitating new health and well-being facilities and encouraging local and accessible health and well-being services;
- promoting community cohesion and encouraging integration, including supporting and protecting new and existing community facilities within communities;
- reducing crime and fear of crime and promoting community safety, particularly through good design of the built environment;
- Improving air quality in the district so that people are not affected by high levels of NOX, PM10s etc.;
- ensuring high quality design that reflects local character and improves the local area, including provision for the needs of different groups;
- protecting people's amenity and local environmental quality, including ensuring local services are accessible;
- providing for the changing needs of the community, including ensuring the ageing population is supported in their communities; and
- ensuring local communities and environments are adaptable and resilient to change.

## 8 INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

- 8.1** The Local Plan will be supported by an Integrated Assessment (IA). The IA will include the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be a standalone document; however its findings will be integrated into the IA.
- 8.2** The role of an IA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives. It is a way of ensuring that the preferred approach in the Plan is the most appropriate when assessed against any reasonable alternatives. It also allows for any potential adverse effects to be identified and mitigated and for improvements to environmental, social and economic conditions to be made.
- 8.3** The Scoping Report is the first stage of the IA process (Stage A). It identifies the scope and level of detail to be included in the IA report. The IA identified the following issues to be addressed in the Local Plan in relation to communities:
- Ensuring the housing needs of all people, particularly older people are taken into account;
  - Sufficient provision of school places and support the delivery of new or extended education and training facilities.
  - Support the improvement of education and skills attainment;
  - Provide and improve play opportunities and provision for all children and young people;
  - Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across the borough;
  - Support the creation of cohesive communities;
  - Promote and ensure high quality design and reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour; and
  - Encourage sustainable recreation, recognising the unique character and the role of the Peak District National Park.
- 8.4** The IA proposed an Integrated Assessment approach and scoring system to the assessment of the emerging Local Plan. Consultation on the Integrated Assessment Scoping Report took place between 10 July and 21 August 2017.
- 8.5** The IA Scoping Report has been updated (Update 1) to support the Issues and Options consultation. The issues in relation to this topic paper have been updated to read:
- There is a need to reduce unemployment and deprivation and promote economic growth, taking into account the growth sectors.
  - There is a need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and foster community cohesion between people.

- There is a need to ensure the needs of the future population, taking into account all protected characteristics including age demographics, ethnicity groups, religious beliefs and disability are met. This includes ensuring a sufficient housing land supply of the appropriate type and mix of housing is provided, employment opportunities are provided and the needs of older people are met.
- The needs of the future population also needs to be taken into account when thinking about infrastructure, including social infrastructure such as education and health provision.
- There is a need to improve health and well-being, improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in Oldham.
- There is the need to ensure adequate school places and support education regeneration programmes.
- There is a need to improve educational attainment and skills.
- The Integrated assessment has appraised the vision, plan objectives and spatial options.

**8.6** The IA of of Health and Well Being showed that Option A, B and C scored neutral against most IA objectives. However, Option B and C scored a significantly positive impact against the IA objective 'To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities'. Option C scored significantly positive against a further two IA objectives relating to local environmental quality and centres and therefore higher overall.

**8.7** The IA will help to develop and refine the options of the Local Plan as work progresses and assess the effects of the Local Plan proposals and consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. An IA report will be published alongside each Draft Local Plan published for consultation before the final Publication stage.

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